

UMPQUEST
UMPQUA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
July 2009

Reverend's Riffs

"Four Very Good Questions: And my musings on their importance."

1. "Why do some Christians hate non-Christians?"

I'm not sure the word to use here is hate so much, as those who "fear" non-Christians. Some Christians you may meet are in a very beginning stage of their religious growth and the first stage of theological life, as many theologians have found is fundamentalism. Meaning, that if everyone does not believe as they do somehow their faith is diminished. Those in the fundamentalist stage are often coming into a particular religion from some harrowing life experience; drugs, divorce, violence they have done or has been done to them, loss of a loved one etc. In the beginning of their religious life many people often have a very casual understanding of what is said in the Bible and want somehow for everything after their "conversion" to be perfect. Remember, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. And many people with only a cursive reading or understanding of the Bible let others, leaders, pastors etc. tell them how to interpret the

Bible and stop there. So, with the fear of hell, the anxiousness of a zealot, and the desire to get their lives "right" with God, they often demand, command, and desire that everyone else think as they do. So often they feel they have finally "got their life right," and when others don't play along, it makes them feel that maybe what they believe is not perfect. I think it takes a long time and much prayer and thought for someone to come to the mystical communal stage, where other's beliefs can be honored and cherished, even if they are different from one's own.

2. "How can we make our church more attractive to young people?"

Our national church in Boston tells us that churches, of all kinds, are growing because of three things; full time ministry, a diverse, and all inclusive music program, and a well planned and fully staffed children's program. If a church has all of these, we are told, it will grow. Maybe we could bring in Roseburg musicians from different genres of music to play the hymns on Sunday morning. Wouldn't that be fun? Things to talk about. If you have any suggestions in any of these areas

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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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 (541) 672-2250

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 Minister: aholmes78@cmspan.net
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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 EnrichmentPaul 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

July Sunday Services

Sunday, July 5, 2009

“America for All Americans: Feeling Comfortable in my Skin” Rev. Holmes

How has the land of the free and the home of the brave dealt with the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender issue? I'll tell you my story.

Sunday, July 12, 2009 5:00 pm

“Twilight Peace Celebration” At the Half Shell in Stewart Park at 5:00 pm with The Center for Spiritual Living. There will be; combined choir presentations, Rev. Holmes preaching, music from local Roseburg artists, peace cranes decorating the Half shell, desserts and coffee following the service with time for fellowship.

Sunday, July 19, 2009

“What Would You Do, If You Held the Key?” Rev. Holmes

Ever think of discipline as a way to freedom? Ironically, discipline could be the key to unlock many of the struggles you may be feeling in your life. I'll share with you what I have learned because, you see, I now hold my own key.

Sunday, July 26, 2009

“Hope Has Human Hands”

The Rev. Kit Ketchum from Whidbey Island UU Fellowship will be our speaker.

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 15th 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.

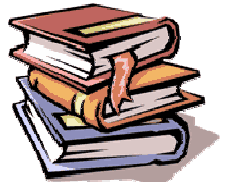
The 2009 UUU Auction is scheduled for Oct 24th. We need an event organizer for this year's auction. Connie Erickson has organized the last two auctions. She will be traveling in Guatemala this year in Oct. Connie has agreed to work with the new auction organizer. She has a complete folder on how to organize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



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.



News from your Community Action Committee

The First Sunday's Candle for June was lighted for the Boys and Girls Club of Douglas County. Director Melanie Taylor brought us up to date on B&G's activities since we last heard from them. The collection came to \$184.00. Melanie noted that she is leaving after 10 years here, as her husband has been transferred to Washington State. We wish her well.

The July First Sunday Candle will welcome a Cobb Street School representative to explain their programs.

The CAC is continuing to provide opportunities for non-profit community programs to come to UUUC to inform our congregation about their activities and mission. These groups have five minutes to give an overview and will be encouraged to stay for social time following the service for questions and to offer materials to interested folks. The presentations are possible to be scheduled for Sundays 2, 3, and 4 most months. There will be no special collection for them on those Sundays (such collections are taken only on First Sundays). Please let a CAC member know about any group you would like to have come (Jim Terry, Hope Lindsay, Kasha Claire, Patti Zachery, Anna Slemmer, or Phyllis Zegers).

Please don't forget that UUUC bumper stickers are available in the basket next to Annie's sermon basket.

We still have some UUUC bookmarks available for you to give to friends and others needing to be reminded that we are here!

CAC will not meet as a group again until September 19th, at 10:00am at church (third Saturday), HOWEVER, please contact ANY committee member (noted above) during that time for any needed attention.

From Jim Terry

(Continued from page 1)

talk to one of the Board members, the music director, Roberta Hall or the director of Religious Education, Kandi Kato.

3. "How do you know if you are making a difference in this world?"

The easy, critical answer may be that we really never know. But I am reminded, because of my following the Tao te Ching, that the power, the difference is in the small things, in the balance with which we live our life and how we answer the question, did we follow the natural flow of energy of any situation. I helped a lady with her groceries the other day, just handed her a few bags that she put in her car as she held her baby. You would have thought that I had given her the Nobel Peace prize for the look of gratitude on her face. I smiled all the way home. I am the best possible person I can be when I eat, sleep, work, love and give in a balanced way. I strive to know the things I can change and let go of those I can't. Then, when situations come at me, I will be balanced and ready for a fair, reasonable, honest answer. And lastly, I try to assess where the energy is flowing in any given situation, my own or the church's for example. And I try to follow the natural energy and not push to so hard in another other direction simply because I want something or someone to go my way. In all these ways I think we make a good, and lastingly true mark on the world around us.

4. "How can a person of faith maintain hope in this world?"

I am reminded of what the Tao tells me about hope. It says that hope is as hollow as fear, because both are phantoms. I was also reminded from my time with Adult Children of Alcoholics of the times in one's life when there will be the greatest stress; tiredness, hunger, boredom and holding in emotions that need to be expressed. We were told that these times are when we fall back into old patterns of despair and dissolution. Hope says to me that I would like something to happen, I would wish for something to happen and I may even force something to happen because I want it, but it may not be the best thing for me and I may learn that only too late. So, I would rather strive to be happy with the way things are, see things clearly for what they are and again change what I can and let go of those things that I cannot change. There have been so many times in my life when I have used these percepts and amazingly they have worked. The greatest comfort to me is to know that I am doing all I can for others in my own sphere of influence and not beating myself up because I am not changing the world.

Thank you to those who asked these questions way back in December, 2008. They have been provocative, timely and a chance for me to again clarify what I believe about my life and the way of the world.

See you in church, Annie



July 2009

Musings

Gary Pischke
Church President

Sometime the only constant in life is change. We don't have a renter for the house, but we are hoping to change that soon. We have changes in membership and on the board. Most of that is good, but losing members is not always good. We like to know why, but don't always find out.

A number of us were at a circle dinner the other night. We had a nice time. One topic that came up was the concept of "church". Some attending the dinner did not like the word "church" with all the connotations that it brings. We have a "church" which was voted on as the name of the congregation roughly fifteen years ago. Before that, we were a fellowship, as are many other congregations. I presume at the time that most members preferred the name "church". But back to the dislike of the word, much of it may stem from current and past events with a certain large "church". Many in our congregation were former involuntary, maybe, members of larger "churches". Many had not so favorable experiences with a system that no longer seems to work. So, a point I have here, is maybe we need to lighten up on the word "church" and think of our selves as a congregation of like minds. We also need to understand that some of us may need more space from church-like activities. The "church" may be part of the reason we lose members.

Back to the rental, we have had a few nibbles for the house. One was for a variation of the Oxford House, but more faith based. The concept was nice, but the funding of the house did not seem to be there or at least to our comfort level. We have a management company that is helping in the rental process. We also have a rental committee that is helping in the process. We hope to have the house rented before the end of summer.



UMPQUA UU CHURCH AND THE CENTER FOR
SPIRITUAL LIVING INVITE YOU TO A

"TWILIGHT PEACE CELEBRATION"

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2009, 5:00 PM

AT THE HALF SHELL AT STEWART PARK.

Rev. Holmes will be the speaker. The choirs
from both churches will be singing. There will
be refreshments and fellowship following the
service.

Please don't forget to bring your own chairs and blankets.

Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report and the Budget Report May 31, 2009 represents the '08-'09 fiscal year.

Our total pledges and non pledged contributions for 2008-2009 are **\$84,817.00.**

Income collected for 2008-2009 was **\$80,989.00** with **\$3,818.00** in uncollected funds. These funds are made up of Members relocating, leaving the church, and members who did not fulfill their total pledges.

Carry over money from 2008-2009 is **\$4,315.15.**

Fish Contributions for May is **\$248.00** plus food collected for the month.

Total pledge income received in May **\$5,404.00.**

Total Plate Cash income received in May **\$533.00.**

Our plate cash give away in May was **\$355.00** and went to Special Olympics.

Total Income **\$8,304.36** Total expense **\$10,292.07** (Income & expenses include the Pass through money)

Actual Church Income **\$8,056.36** this includes **\$2,019** taken from the Domini Money Market Fund to pay Oregon unemployment taxes.

Actual Church expense - **\$10,044.07**

Minister salary and expense for May was **\$ 4,443.53**

Pledges received for 2009-2010 fiscal year so far are **\$76,181.00.** 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. **\$2,500.00** was taken from the Domini fund to cover a part of these expenses.

Our Membership is 63 members and 49 friends of the Church.

Doris Heyman, Treasurer of the Board

New and Not-So-New Member Bio

Meet JULIENNE DeMARSH



By: Sheila Lawrence

In her own words, Julienne says, "I was left on our doorstep by fairies", her Mom explained to her as one of the youngest children by 15 years, born into a Myrtle Creek family.

In fact, Grandma thought her "one of the little people," when she discovered Julienne talking to the trees.

At age 8, she was expelled from Sunday School for interrupting a sermon about Abraham and Sarah, of whom she loudly opinionated them as "awful people," for banishing Hagar and little Ishmael to the desert, and not worthy of her respect.

Julienne's artist mother sent her to visit family throughout the U.S. Europe and Japan, affording her great learning and working opportunities wherever she went

Today, Julienne works several hours a week at Promise National Foods in Canyonville, all the while pursuing an herbalist certification..

The single greatest joy in her life began 6 years ago," when feral 'mama kitty' deposited her 7 babies on her doorstep – today she is the proud human servant of all 8, whose activities are part of Rupert Sheldrake's animal communication studies.

Julienne recalls the long-running ads "Are you a Unitarian and don't know it?" She was especially drawn to the people who identified themselves as Unitarians and sought out congregations wherever she lived. As one who firmly believes that the hands of the Divine are at the end of our own arms, Julienne is proud to be a participant in this historic movement that emphasizes "social justice" and is a member of Amnesty International, Greenpeace, The Sierra Club and the "No LNG campaign.

She occasionally staffs the church bookstore and is the person who sends beseeching emails or calls asking for your service as weekly Greeters.

Julienne is one of those magical persons who come into one's life so rarely, that she remains quite unforgettable to those of us who are touched by her. ..and it is a fact, that we Unitarians are of a substance to attract such magic.

UUU Church Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the UUUC Board of Directors

June 9 , 2009



Members present: Rev. Annie Holmes, Gary Pischke, June Ervin, Sara Byers, Paul Zegers. Guests: Kandi Kato, Doris Heyman

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 4th.

Item: Discussion of Church Audit by State of Oregon.

Action: Doris has all tax issues straightened out. We now have an auditor and non-profit accountant who will be there to assist our future quarterly tax reporting.

Item: Rental House Update

Action: We are now allowing a small dog in rental home. If rental house is still vacant in a few months, we may drop the monthly rental fee. Gary suggested starting up an Oxford House in the rental home. We will do more research on that idea.

Item: Discussion of planned Board Retreat in August

Action: Group decided not to address this issue today because three board members are absent. We will discuss at next month's meeting instead.

Item: Discussion of flood damage to lower floor of church/insurance coverage.

Item: We have a \$500 deductible to pay. We are removing the downstairs padding under the carpet. Gary suggested that we Roto-Rooter the drain that caused such damage. All members are in favor of that idea.

Item: Discussion of church finances

Action: Due to inadequate funding, we may make changes to newspaper advertising. We will eliminate the babysitter position, and may postpone the plate cash giveaway.

Item: Discussion of church insurance policy

Action: Doris suggested that we research other medical insurance programs to reduce church spending. Annie wants to address this issue at the next meeting when other board members are present.

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Item: Discussion of the Pacific Northwest Young Adult's interest in our church

Action: Kandi Kato suggested that we host a future PNWD young adult conference. This issue will be addressed again when we get more information from PNWD.

Item: Discussion of chalice lighter grant

Action: Gary suggested that we consider increasing the amount of the grant to allow for necessary upgrades to the church. Gary will put together specifics of proposed project and let board members review it before a decision is made.

Item: Discussion of Treasurer position

Action: Until someone takes over the treasurer position, we will be dividing up the tasks of treasurer among four individuals: Gary Pischke, June Ervin, Sara Byers, and Kara Lomprey. Board members hope to have something in place by June 22nd.

Item: Discussion of OWL training instruction from PNWD

Action: The PNWD will need approximately 20 volunteers to open their homes and showers during their stay here. We need to get a specific date before any plans can be made. Group consensus is that this is a good opportunity for our church to participate in.

Item: Discussion of Presidential candidate for UUA

Action: Gary will try to find a delegate vote before sending out his and Annie's votes next week.

Item: Discussion of Patti Zachary's desire for a cash flow game

Action: It was decided that as long as hosting this game does not interfere with choir, we may allow it. Annie suggested that we first reevaluate our building rental fees because they are quite low.

Item: Discussion of Committee on Committees meeting

Action: The next Committee on Committees meeting will be held at the UU church on Wednesday, July 8th, at 5:30pm. Dinner will be provided and there will a charge of \$10 per person.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 6:30pm at the UUUC.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Lomprey



July 2009

Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	29 10:00-2:00pm - Bring your videos, books, cds, etc.	30 10:00-2:00pm - Bring your videos, books, cds, etc.	1 Noon -Mindfulness Meditation 11:00am - Adult Enrichment Meeting @ Church 10:00-2:00pm - Bring your videos, books, cds, etc.	2	3  9:00-3:00pm - Read and Feed Book Sale @ Church	4  9:00-3:00pm - Read and Feed Book Sale @ Church
5 9:00-3:00pm - Read and Feed Book Sale @ Church  10:30am - Sunday Service "America for All Americans: Feeling Comfortable in my Skin" - Rev. Holmes	6	7	8 Noon -Mindfulness Meditation 5:30pm - Committee on Committees Meeting @ Church	9	10	11
12 5:00pm - Sunday Service in park "Twilight Peace Celebration"	13	14	15 Noon - Mindfulness Meditation 6:30pm - Board Meeting @ Church <i>Newsletter Articles Due!</i>	16	17 11:00am - Membership Meeting @ Church	18 12:30-3:30pm - Shamanic Journey Circle with Sharon Haag
19 10:30am - Sunday Service "What Would You Do, If You Held the Key?" - Rev. Holmes	20	21	22 Noon -Mindfulness Meditation	23	24	25
26 10:30am - Sunday Service "Hope Has Human Hands" - Rev. Kit Ketchum	27	28	29 Noon -Mindfulness Meditation	30	31	