

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.

Web site: umpquauuchurch.org
 (541) 672-2250

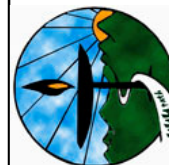
e-mail: umquauu@cmspan.net
 Minister: aholmes78@cmspan.net
 cell: (541) 733-4017

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

Church Officers
 President.....Gary Pischke
 Vice President.....Anna Slemmer
 Treasurer.....(Temporary) June Ervin & Gary Pischke
 Secretary.....Paul Zegers
 Member-at-Large.....Jan Fritz
 Member-at-Large.....Marilynn Stephens
 Member-at-Large.....June Ervin
 Member-at-Large.....Sara Byers

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
 Committee on Ministry.....Judy Robertson
 Music.....Elizabeth Herbert
 Office.....Open
 Community Action.....Jim Terry
 Sunday Services.....Jim Pratt
 Volunteer Coordinator.....Open
 Webmaster.....Bernie Fox

U M P Q U E S T
 UMPQUA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
 September 2009



Sunday, September 6, 2009

“Time Banking” Sharon Lee Schwartz
 The “First Sunday” offering for September 6th will be going to support Sharon Lee Schwartz who will discuss “The League of Women Voters Project” to develop a time bank.

Sunday, September 13, 2009

“The Celebration of the Annual Water Communion” Rev. Holmes
 Please bring some symbolic water, or the real thing if you remembered to the service this Sunday and during the sermon we will spend some time sharing about our trips over the summer. Please bring water from your backyard if you spent your time at home and enjoyed your summer from there. The combined waters will then be poured into the church property as it is reclaimed by the earth.

Sunday, September 20, 2009

“A Short History of Universalism in America” Rev. Holmes
 The second part of our very long religious name, Universalists have often felt like the second cousin to Unitarians, but there has never been a need as they have been the fierce defenders since the 1760’s of universal salvation and the eternal love of God. Come and hear their bold story and how their message is as needed today as ever.

Sunday, September 27, 2009

“When Burdens Become Gifts” Rev. Holmes
 As the Tao te Ching is ever the teacher, we learn the beauty of the yin and yang of all situations. Don’t despair about health care, taxes or a lost love just yet. Be of good cheer, the time for revelation is upon us.

Reverend's Riffs

"Giving Because It Feels Good"

This process through which people give money to a church or to a cause is often affected by a thing called "information cascade." Information comes to a person about a place like this church, and either it is information that was experienced first-hand or here-say. A person then, often based on sometimes solid reasons and sometimes flimsy facts or purely emotional feelings either decides to come and visit us and then support the cause of the church or not.



On the subject of why people go to church or not, and why people give to church or not, church experts have found that their analysis of this dynamic community has much in common with a theory that may at first appear unrelated and alarming and that theory is -- the chaos theory.

After writing hundreds of books on the subject, putting together tapes and videos and seminars and conferences, the bottom line is that, experts tell us, nobody really knows why people give to an organization like our church. They are not scientifically sure why people give time, or energy or money to a church community. The reason pledges and putting together a church budget seems so chaotic, is because it is so chaotic. And for some who like to live free and loose and easy can accept this chaos more easily than others who look for more scientific proof and trends. Those people tend to pull their hair out wondering why a budget and giving cannot be more systematic.

A church community is a complex-adaptive system forever posed between order and utter chaos. Included in a church's makeup there

are perceptions, and presuppositions, needs and desires all jumbled up in membership and Sunday participation.

Personally, I love the supposed "messiness" about church, as one of my colleagues called it, because it reminds me that as a church we are powered by a spirit that cannot be caged. It seems that church, like other living organizations, is enhanced and yet complicated by the fact that people do seem to follow simple rules and this produces complex outcomes.

The chaos theory emerged in the 1920's with Einstein and others when they invented a statistical distribution to describe the way gas molecules bounding around a room tend to gather into balls. The position of the balls they discovered, could not be predicted, but they always turned up somewhere. It was this chaotic-clustering process of the gas balls that caught my eye, when over the past 15 years I have tried to figure out trends of membership and giving patterns in a church community. I believe the how's and the why's of membership and church-giving are complex patterns of chaos.

There is a parallel with church communities and chaos, with groups of people and why they come together, why they stay together. Because we are dealing with people and preferences, data on church attendance and giving will unfortunately for some never be an exact science.

A church is a complex, living, breathing, dynamic, emotional system and often it cannot be relied upon to exhibit predictable patterns of behavior over extended periods of time and yet - churches continue to function, here and in thousands of cities all over the world.

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Sunday, November 15th a Congregational Meeting immediately after the Sunday morning service.

Saturday, November 14th 7:00 pm. The Second of the Concert Series: UU's Festival of Music. This is a fundraiser to benefit the church. Musicians will be announced.

Friday ~ Sunday, November 27th ~ 29th The Fourth Annual 10,000 Villages Sale to benefit the artisans from around the world. All proceeds to benefit those who created these beautiful pieces of art. Shop for Christmas and save the world at the same time!

Fridays in December, 4th, 11th and 18th "Celebrating Our Holiday Diversity!" From 5:00 ~ 7:00 each of these evenings we will celebrate a different Holiday tradition. Dec. 4th **Davali** of the Hindu tradition, Dec. 11th **Hanukah** of the Jewish tradition, Hanukah actually begins this night at sundown, and Dec. 18th from the Pagan tradition of the **Winter Solstice**. Each evening will have a light meal served, a presentation on the Holiday celebrated and a craft that young and old will enjoy doing that celebrates that particular tradition.



Sunday, December 13th The musicians "4 Shillings Short" from Portland, who play instruments from around the world will play for the Sunday service that morning. After the service there will be a soup and bread pot luck and a full 2 hour concert for the whole community at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 per person, \$20.00 per family, \$5.00 per student and seniors.

Questions, suggestions or ways to help call the church office.



2009



Upcoming Events at the Home of Your Heart ...
the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

Saturday, September 19th @ 7:00 pm, the UU's Festival of Music, at the church, a fundraiser to benefit the church and the first of four concerts throughout the year. Tickets \$7 for adults & teens, \$12 for a couple or family. Refreshments will be served. Artists will be announced soon.

Wednesdays, from September 9th through October 21st walking the 7 paths of spiritual transformation with Rev. Holmes. Classes will be held from 6:00 ~ 8:00. Sign-up sheet in the back of church.

Saturday, October 17th The Southern Oregon Cluster conference at Ashland UU church. Cars will be leaving from the church at 7:00 am for any who would like to participate. The theme this year is "Spiritual Fitness Within Ourselves and Our Congregations." Rev. Holmes will be presenting a workshop on the Tao te Ching and our congregational life. Sign-up sheets will be available at the end of August.

Saturday, October 24th UUU's Annual Harvest of Hope Auction as a fundraiser to support the operating budget of our church. Sara Byers is the chairperson of this event and will be putting out materials on how all of us can participate.

Wednesday, October 28th A Halloween Party with costumes, a pot luck and a Psychic Faire! Come and have your palms read, your aura's looked at and your runes interpreted. 5:00 ~ 8:00 here at the church!



(Continued from page 2)

There is stability because many of us get "it" the reason for church. But part of chaos is evident because there is no guarantee this cluster of individuals will continue to sustain the responsibilities that were assumed. But the good news is that what was discovered is that there is a pattern, an order, even a stability within the apparent chaos. As you make a commitment, a promise and a pledge to this church, and honor that promise and pledge of time and money, you take the chaos out of the seemingly disorder and confusion that often seems to underline a church structure.

80% of people come to a particular church because someone they know and trust told them this would be a good place for them to be. 30% noticed the building, or a sign, 15% grew up in the area, or belonged to a group who met with members of the congregation, 11% were told by a non-member of the existence of this group of people, only 7% visit because they saw an ad or a piece of paper with our name on it. Paper ads are the least effective way to promote a church. Person to person contact and invitation is still the best way of growing a church. 52% of people joining UU churches are new and have just moved into the area, 38% are in a major life transition, and 80% have children and are looking for a quality religious education program.

There is much a congregation can do to reach out to people. What we have in our control are four features of a church community that people are seeking when they visit and plan to join they are; **1.** An easily identifiable belief system. The church members already existing can easily formulate why this community is a church. Not like the joke that says a UU responds to all questions with an open mouth. **2.** A church that will survive has strength, it has

an energy and enthusiasm that people can feel. **3.** A strong congregation knows and can articulate why they are in business. They are person and program motivated. And **4.** a viable church will remember there is a spirit, a soul, a character so to speak that cannot be limited or controlled. This is the part of the congregation that reminds the members that together they can be and do more in the world than they ever could as individuals.

As I write my pledge check each month to the church, I feel it is a sacred act that I am performing. But money is the root of all evil many would say, ah, yes, but used wisely and with understanding it is also the gateway to all we would wish to do in the world. Money is not profane, only the misuse, the worship, and the seeing it as an end is profane. Our church needs your financial consistent giving now more than ever. Please let us take some of the chaos out of our church functioning. I like to think if I have \$10, one of those will go to the church. If I have \$100, \$10 of those dollars could go to the church. If I don't get my every other day mocha at Dutch Brothers, I could save at least \$10 a week! It all adds up. It is not too late to raise your pledge. As the young minister told his congregation, "I upped my pledge, now up yours!" Wouldn't it be wonderful if we didn't have to do as much fund raising to reach our budgeted goal (\$12,000 needed for this year) and could spend more time on ministry to the community? If you can find a way to give a bit more to the church this year it would be so much appreciated, not because we are a sinking ship, but because myself and others will be freed to do the work that has been begun with Dorothea Dix, Jane Addams, Margaret Fuller, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Emerson and Thoreau. They gave without counting the cost, I want all of us to do the same.

See you in church, Annie



September 2009

Musings

Gary Pischke
Church President

The height of summer is here, or is more the heat of summer is here. When the temps are in the 108 range, the church could really use some air conditioning. We are now working on a loan or another version of a grant to cover costs of the ADA ramp and other improvements for the church. We found that there is a five year limitation for the chalice lighter grant request. So if we do some improvements, we will need some funding.

We are also looking at other buildings for future possibilities of relocation. This is part of the vision ad hoc committee, led by Jacie Pratt, to resolve our five year plan. The goal of the vision committee is to provide an outline of plans for the church. Do we want to stay and improve our present location, or do we want to move into another facility?

An appraisal of the current property with the rental and the church is being prepared. The market is partially stabilizing, but is not the best for selling at the time. But the market is good for buying. To that end, we are working on a property viewing trip on the first Sunday of September. The trip will be see what is available on the market, and what the current prices are.

The plan is to have a presentation at the November 15 congregational meeting on the vision for the church property and options for other locations in the community. With this in mind, the congregation, you all, need to provide your ideas to the vision committee and to the board.

Item: Discussion of Southern Oregon cluster on October 16-18th in Ashland.

Action: Discussion of the various events planned. A packet of information can be found on the back table of the church.

Item: Discussion of OWL training

Action: They no longer need our facility this fall.

Next board meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 6:30pm at the UUUC.

Respectfully submitted,
Kara Lomprey
Church Administrator

APROVECHO FIELDTRIP

On August 15th, a group of UUU folks and friends went to Aprovecho outside of Cottage Grove. Aprovecho is a 40 acre site for a non profit group that teaches sustainability and develops technology to help the environment. Mike Hatfield led the tour. He is one of their teachers about biomass heating and cooking stoves. Mike has traveled to many third world countries demonstrating how to make a appropriate biomass stoves. We got to see about ten different examples of these stoves. We also saw the organic gardens and orchards, the strawbale dorm for interns, their green technology hot water heaters and more. While we were there, they had a team of horses that they were using for their tree-thinning project. This fieldtrip was a silent auction item at the 2009 UUU Auction. Connie organized this field-trip. She & Dana also organize a garden tour each year. UUU folks and their friends love to learn new things and have fun! Be creative when you think of auction items. Reach out to your friends for help. Someone you know can teach an art workshop, lead a hike or host a garden tour. These activities can be an outreach for our UUU church. Connie Erickson

Important Announcements

- 1) Rev. Holmes will be out of the office in Wisconsin visiting family from Tuesday, September 2nd through Monday, September 7th. She will be back in the office on Tuesday, September 8th. All calls of emergency and crisis should be directed to the church office or Rev. Holmes cell phone, 541-733-4017.
- 2) An Orientation/Information time is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, following the service. This is a time to get information about our church for anyone interested in knowing more and/or thinking of joining or becoming a Friend. Please join us to find out our interesting history.
- 3) We will be having our first concert on Saturday, September 19th, from 7:00-9:00pm. The band will be "Shasta Ray" which is a 5-7 person band who performs familiar and old-time music with vocals. Some songs are their own original songs. We will be serving chocolate, wine, and soft drinks. More information will come.

UUU Church Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the UUUC Board of Directors

August 12, 2009



Members present: Gary Pischke, Annie Holmes, Paul Zegers, Anna Slemmer, Marilynn Stephens, Claire Dalzell, June Ervin, and Sara Byers.

Item: Rental House- discussion on parking

Action: Discussion of putting in a designated parking area on rental property.

Item: Discussion of possible Board retreat in October or November

Action: Retreat will be on September 11th from 5:30-9:30pm at Annie's house.

Item: Discussion of Flood damage- insurance coverage? Church mutual coverage

Action: Dean Byers will call Mel Watts to see if they will fix the pipe or add flood coverage to our policy.

Item: Discussion of Chalice Lighter Grant and what to do now

Action: Our Chalice Lighter Grant application was denied because not enough time has passed since our last one. Gary suggested doing an "in house" loan, per se, by asking members of the congregation to loan money to the church and then paying them back with interest Annie does not think this would work. Gary thinks we should hold off on pursuing a loan until we decide if we are moving locations. All in favor.

Item: Discussion of potential church relocation

Action: On September 6th, at 12:15pm, anyone interested will meet at the church and caravan over to check out possible properties. Anna brought in a "change for the future" jar to start raising money.

Item: Discussion of AA use of facility: are we ready and discussion of rental fees.

Action: Paul Zegers motioned to raise our rental fee to from \$25.00 for four hours to \$25.00 per hour. Marilynn Stephens 2nd that motion. All in favor. These new rates are effective immediately. We discussed charging the folklore group \$35.00 per night. Anna Slemmer will call Mary Ann to discuss the AA rental.

Item: Discussion of Auction Committee; including discussion on canvass committee- update.

Action: Doris Heyman and Sara Byers will co-lead the Auction Committee. June Ervin will be in charge of the food at the auction.

Item: Discussion of installing heating/air conditioning units in church

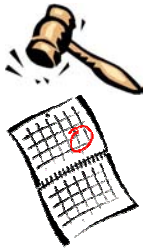
Action: It will cost \$9,167 to install heating/air in our church. All members agree that we should wait until we are certain that we are staying at this location. We will discuss this topic again next month.

Item: Discussion of finance committee

Action: Annie changed the name of this committee to the "Canvass Committee". We still need a chair for this committee. Anna suggested to have 2 co-chairs rather than just one. Paul Zegers and Marilynn Stephen's said they would be co-chairs. We will ask Jody Ahlstedt, Jan Fritz and Gail Spitze if they will join this committee.



**"A Harvest of Hope"
Umpqua UU Auction Fundraiser
Saturday, October 24th**



SAVE THE DATE! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

The UUU Auction is our big annual fundraiser, and every church member and friend can contribute. It's an opportunity to share our skills, talents, possessions and time with others in our community.

Please consider what you have to offer or a service that you need. Each person's unique experience and talents count here! We all have things to offer that would be interesting, fun or helpful to someone else. This is such a fun way to support your church. Be creative!

There will be a Silent as well as an Oral Auction. Please contact Doris Heyman at 957-0541 (deeoris@wildblue.net) if you have items to donate for the Silent Auction. Sara Byers will be coordinating the Oral Auction, and she'll welcome your call at 672-8094 or by email at byers@rosenet.net.

There will again be a special "Made in Oregon" basket that will be raffled beginning in late September. We're "thinking local" this year, so handmade or locally produced items will be especially welcome. If you have items to contribute for the "Made in Oregon" basket, please contact Joyce Swanson at 464-5857.

The Auction isn't only about having fun, bringing friends and bidding on cool stuff. It's about HOPE. Let's celebrate the season by bringing in a "harvest" of resources, both in cash and memories, to bring us closer to making our hopes and dreams a reality.

Call the church office or Auction Co-Chairs Sara Byers (672-8094) or Doris Heyman (957-0541) for more information.



PLEASE NOTE

Don't miss the Southern Oregon UU Cluster this year in Ashland! It will be from October 16th-18th and there are several events planned. Please pick up a packet on the back table of the church for more information.

**Everything You Always Wanted to Know About
SABBATICALS and COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY... But Were Afraid to Ask!**

The 2009-2010 Committee on Ministry met recently to discuss its goals for the next church year. Mary Ann Wilcox, Pat Zemlin and Judy Robertson met with Rev. Annie to talk about the ways in which we can support her ministry.

Timely information that you need first:

During this next church year Rev. Annie will be taking a sabbatical. Sabbaticals are an expected part of every **U.U.** ministers contract. They are to equal one month for every year of service and are meant to be taken several years worth at a time. Rev. Annie will be taking her sabbatical this January through April, 2010. Steps that have already been taken in anticipation of our minister's absence from the church include arrangements for 5 visiting ministers already in place. There will be more and other pieces of the plan for Rev. Annie's sabbatical that we will share with you in the next few months.

As to the Committee on Ministry.....A quick overview:

- 1) C.O.M. will be responsible to make and maintain a relationship with the Rev. Holmes that includes an understanding of her goals and any personal information about her that might impact her relationship to those goals and to the workings of the church.
- 2) It's also our responsibility to be the minister's spokesperson to the Board or the Congregation on matters of covenant (contract) i.e. salary, sabbatical or sick leave.
- 3) Committee on Ministry is also expected to evaluate the minister and his or her ministry every three years.
- 4) If there should be a complaint or unmet expectation voiced by a member in relation to the minister, this committee's goal is to encourage the complainant to go to the minister with that complaint. The committee's responsibility is to meet together with the congregant and the minister when appropriate.
- 5) A responsibility of special importance during this next year is one that obligates the C.O.M. to work with other committees of the church to plan for a smooth transition to and completion of the Minister's sabbatical. In response to this obligation, we will help to keep you informed about church plans for those four months in early 2010.

Happy days everyone,
Judy Robertson, Chair, Committee on Ministry.

Community Action Committee Notes

The "First Sunday" offering for September 6th will be going to support "The League of Women Voters Project" to develop a time bank. Our speaker Sunday, September 6th, will be our own Sharon Lee Schwartz who will explain the project in detail.

The Community Action Committee will be trying to develop a calendar of CAC candle presentations for the church year ending in July. Please let us know if you have suggestions. Our next committee meeting will be Saturday, September 19th, at church, 10am.

Please remember to bring your donated school supplies and put them in the box next to the front door. And last but not least, bring your change from the kitchen drawer, from under the sofa cushions, and in the car ash tray and put in the jar provided to start the fund for a new church building! From Jim Terry and Hope Lindsay, Co-chairs

Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report and the Budget Report July 31, 2009 represents the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Our total pledges for 2009-2010 are \$77,166.00. No changes to pledges were received in July.

Fish Contributions for July was **\$199.00** plus food collected for the month. Total pledge income received in July was **\$9,468.00**. Total Plate cash income received was **\$283.00**. Our plate cash give away in July of **\$199.00** went to the Fish Pantry. The book sale has collected **\$417.50** to date.

Total Income was **\$10,671.83** Total expenses were **\$6,778.68** (Income & expenses include the Pass through money).

Actual Church Income was **\$8,266.25** Actual Church Expenses were **\$6,114.61**.

Minister salary and expenses for July was **\$5,210.35**.

The rental house has been rented and is starting to cover expenses associated with mortgage and taxes due later this year. The expenses of the rental cleanup and preparation have been paid.

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

Gary Pischke, Temporary Co-Treasurer



September 2009

Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Noon-Mindfulness Meditation	3	4	5
6 10:30am - Sunday Service "Time Banking" - Sharon Lee Schwartz	7	8 Noon - Committee on Ministry meeting 6:30pm - Board meeting @ church	9 Noon-Mindfulness Meditation 6:30-8:00pm - "Dancing the Dream" class with Rev. Holmes	10 6:00pm - Choir - all are welcome!	11 5:30-9:30pm - Board Retreat @ Annie's house	12
13 10:30am - Sunday Service "The Celebra- tion of the Annual Water Communion" -Rev. Holmes New member orientation immediately following service.	14	15 <i>Newsletter Articles Due!</i>	16 Noon - Mindfulness Meditation 6:30-8:00pm - "Dancing the Dream" class with Rev. Holmes	17 6:00pm - Choir - all are welcome!	18 11:00am - Membership Meeting @ Church	19 12:30-3:30pm - Shamanic Journey Circle with Sharon Haag 7:00-9:00pm - Shasta Ray concert @ Church
20 10:30am - Sunday Service "A Short His- tory of Universalism in America" - Rev. Holmes	21	22	23 Noon-Mindfulness Meditation 6:30-8:00pm - "Dancing the Dream" class with Rev. Holmes	24 6:00pm - Choir - all are welcome!	25	26
27 10:30am - Sunday Service "When Burdens Become Gifts" - Rev. Holmes	28	29	30 Noon-Mindfulness Meditation 6:30-8:00pm - "Dancing the Dream" class with Rev. Holmes			