

**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](http://umpquauuchurch.org)  
 (541) 672-2250

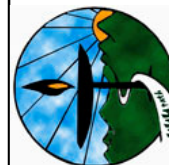
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 Minister: [aholmes78@cmspan.net](mailto:aholmes78@cmspan.net)  
 cell: (541) 733-4017

**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.....Claire Dalzell  
 Member-at-Large.....Marilynn Stephens  
 Member-at-Large.....June Ervin  
 Member-at-Large.....Sara Byers

**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  
 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  
 October 2009



**October Sunday Services: 10:30am**

**Sunday, October 4, 2009**

“Co-operative Housing”

Uta Stelson

**Sunday, October 11, 2009**

“Vincent: A Light In the Shadows”

Rev. Holmes

Winter for many people is a very hard time of year. Vincent Van Gogh suffered mightily, and yet gave all of us a treasure, not just from his paintings, but also from his process of learning how to be creative within his illness. We will share some of his story, his paintings and how to be healthier people as the winter is coming.

**Sunday, October 18, 2009**

“Secret Inheritance”

Rev. Holmes

Non- patriarchal, non-matriarchal, non-classist, non-religionists, non-conformist, non-racists, non-sexist, on this Sunday we strive with Starhawk to build a new land. I will sing you this sermon, believe it!

**Sunday, October 25, 2009**

“Unmasking the Real Meaning of Halloween”

Rev. Holmes

## Reverend's Riffs

"What Do I Say When people Ask if UU's are Christians?"

This question was asked in one of the "Wish Sermons" I have done over the last 4 years and as this same question has been asked many times over the years, I felt it would be a worthy topic for me to address now.



Our roots as Unitarians and Universalists are in the Christian tradition. The Unitarians, at least in this country, came from the Congregationalist's church background. Hence our "congregational" polity, meaning all the power to run the church lies in the pews, not with Bishops or a national church somewhere far away.

The Unitarians moved away from the Congregational church because they wanted to see Jesus as a man who was a model on how we could live as humans. They did not want to believe in a Trinity of Gods as they could not find it substantiated in the Bible. And they believed that if they could not find it there, they would not believe it. It was once again when a group of religious people started using their reason in forming their faith. As their

leader, William Ellery Channing, in 1819 began preaching God is one, many began using the name "Unitarian" as it had been used to describe the Polish Brethren of the 1550's who had preached the same doctrine hundreds of years before. These new Unitarians stayed basically Christian in their Unitarianism until 1933 when the Humanists, atheists, scientists and ethicists came to the General Assembly and asked to be included in the Unitarian church as full members.

This inclusion of the Humanists and their Manifesto changed the Unitarians forever. Because now, the Unitarians had included the fringe so to speak of the religious world into their church structure. Now they would always be the church that was Christian AND so much more. Then when the Neo-Pagans were accepted into full fellowship in 1996, the UU church felt the full weight of being a church that accepts so many kinds of believing.

Now the Universalists were not idle in this history. They were mostly from the Baptist tradition favoring tent ministries to church structures. They were the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Reflections of a Bookworm

Book review by Julienne DeMarsh

### "Healing Conversations: What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say", Nance Guilmarthen

We all know someone gifted with the ability to always have the "right" words of comfort or cheer spring forth effortlessly when talking to a friend or co-worker in the midst of a difficult life situation. For the rest of us who approach the person awkwardly, offer a canned phrase of condolence and stumble away thinking "Did I say the right thing?", **HEALING CONVERSATIONS** is a virtual encyclopedia of compassionate responses to someone in distress, intended to "support others without fixing, rescuing or judging".

Foregoing a theoretical approach, **HEALING CONVERSATIONS** offers real-life situations ranging from helping a friend face surgery to comforting children of divorcing parents. She tells us to listen, offer comfort and show up even when it's awkward and even offers guidance for the time when the person in need of help is....you.

I have found the suggestions offered in **HEALING CONVERSATIONS** to be so useful that I have wished it could be offered as a workshop – a book to be re-read time and again, meant to be shared.

### A CHILD'S BOOK OF BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS, COLLECTED BY ELIZA BLANCHARD

A totally lovely little book of short blessings prayers collected from faith traditions the world over, perfect for parents & grandparents to read with the kids. Blessings from Native American, Hindu, Muslim, pagan and even UU traditions are given for mealtime, bedtime, birthdays and holidays. Many of the blessings are short enough to be memorized by even the smallest child. I know this little treasury will find its way to all the little ones I know!

These titles and others are available for purchase at our UUU Booktable located by the bulletin board....look for the Bookworm!





## Musical Notes from the Music Committee



September is the start of another choir year. We're rested, tan, and ready to sing. Roberta and Sharon have chosen anthems for the choir that will challenge our abilities and bring you lyrics that articulate UU beliefs, as well as amuse or move you.

Hymns, on the other hand, are not a spectator sport. Take a look at the words as you sing. They've been carefully chosen to add to the overall service and to amplify the message of the sermon.

Perhaps the hymn is unfamiliar. The choir will help to lead you into new territory. Perhaps you object to the use of "Christ" or a phrase in a hymn. Roberta and Sharon, with advice from the choir, work very hard to choose music that will be acceptable to the congregation, but it isn't possible to always please every member of a very diverse group. (If all else fails, don't sing the words. Works for me with "Spirit of Life").

Continuing with advice from me: Nearly each hymn has something that looks like this- d= some number- in the upper left hand corner. An example would be d= 56 for "Spirit of Life". That is the number of beats per minute, so "Spirit of Life" should be sung at about one beat per second. "Let it Be a Dance We Do" has the same number of beats, so both songs should be sung at the same fairly peppy tempo. For new hymns, Roberta or Sharon will set the tempo from the keyboard.

This sounds like a lot of work, but I think it's worth it. Music is a very important part of our worship because it can express what is in our hearts. Part of why I'm in the choir is to sing my spirituality and unfortunately, it involves paying attention to pesky details such as beats per minute.

There's a lot of beautiful music out there. Let's explore and cherish it.

Elizabeth Herbert, Music Committee Chair

*(Continued from page 2)*

revivalists who preached that nothing could separate us from the love of God. The Unitarians were preaching that God was one, and the Universalists were preaching God is love. They too had looked in the Bible and could not find the doctrine of predestination, hell and judgment. So, they decided that if it wasn't in the Bible it had to come from some need of the church to keep people bound to it in fear. And in that vein, they turned away from Calvinism and Lutheranism and started preaching God is love.

Both churches had moved away from the traditional Christian stance as they decided to join forces in 1961 and become the Unitarian Universalist Association. Picking the name Association very carefully, as they did not want to offend those who were having trouble with the word church.

So, when people ask me if we are a Christian church I assure them we have people who believe in God and Jesus, but that we are so much more. And this is when their jaws drop and they ask the inevitable question, how can there be so much more? Either you are a Christian or a heathen, right? I

try to reassure them that we are all people of faith, just that we allow and encourage people to find their own faith. And ah, there is the rub. People are not used to that and then they feel somehow we are weird. But, as most of us can attest, it did take us a while to become comfortable with this religious system, so too with them. Give them time to digest and think about this and how to make it a part of their new religious understanding. Or not.

None of these discussions can be swift, fast and easy unfortunately. These are processes and ways of believing that have taken centuries to form and even more time to become formed into a real religion and be able to marketed to people like you and me. From the first moment I entered a UU church until today it has been the religious home I was looking for. And all your friendly and loving faces each Sunday only make it so much more special.

The answer to the original question is yes and no and then some. May it ever be so.

See you in church, Annie



October 2009

# Musings

Gary Pischke  
Church President

The board had a partial retreat the other night. We discussed various aspects of the church and the board's role. Four of the board members are new to the position, and three are continuing for another year. With the new members, the board is in a transition with new eyes looking at the church. Unfortunately, we were missing one of the members, who is having transportation difficulties.

One of the questions at the meeting was how we presently viewed the church- the actual building. The surprising, or maybe not surprising, view was that the church was "dumpy". The building looks older than it actually is, leading to the "dumpy" part. The question that comes to mind with this, does the congregation also view the church the same way? I've heard comments that some members like the present church for being kind of homey, welcoming, like a nice place to be in. The goal from this discussion will be "what do we as a congregation want in a church- the physical part. Annie has been hired to provide the spiritual part. The board and committees have to handle the physical part.

The other part of evening retreat was a discussion on how to retain and gain members. We have many members who were once friends, and we have many friends who were once members. Should we ask those friends back? Should we try to gain members in other ways? More music concerts, more evening spiritual programs, more Sunday gatherings with invitations to the community.

One thing we did not discuss was how to reach out to members or potential members who work. Those who do not have the time due to work and/or family to make the break to our church. Those who work nine to five or so, and cannot make every event that starts at five. Other churches have made the transition to help those who work normal daily hours and appear to be thriving.

So on the response to these questions, the board is starting back up the "fourth Sunday" discuss with a board member your thoughts and concerns. We'd like to hear from every one.

## Item: New mailboxes

Action: There are now "mailboxes" for all board members and committee chairs on the wall in the church office.

## Item: Discussion of intern

Action: We have someone show interest in doing an internship here in the fall of 2010. Annie said that in order to have an intern: the church must pay them, you need a minister who is in final fellowship, the minister must be on the premises all the time while the intern is here, and you need an Internship Committee and a "Search Committee", which scouts out the money and makes sure we have the money to pay this intern. We will discuss this topic at the congregational meeting to make sure that everyone is in favor of having one. Annie said that interns can bring a lot to a church in terms of ideas, etc.

**Next board meeting: October 6th at 5:30pm (Committee on Committees meeting) with a Board meeting to follow at 7pm at the UUUC.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kara Lomprey  
Church Administrator

## Important Announcements

- 1) Rev. Holmes will be out of the office from Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> celebrating hers and Bille's tenth anniversary as a couple. Their anniversary is Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Joyce Swanson would like to give many thanks to all the people who donated items for the Made In Oregon Basket!! It is chock full of all kinds of goodies. Raffle tickets will be available for sale the first 3 Sundays in October and at the Auction on Oct. 24 for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. (You don't have to be present to win.)
- 4) The 2010 Wine Tasting Event fundraiser will be held on January 23rd, 2010 at the Umpqua Valley Art Center. The theme for the event is: "California versus south of the equator wines." We are looking for some donations of nice wines or special treats to put in the raffle basket. If you have some donations, please talk to Connie. Also, if you would be willing to help with the event, our committee would be very appreciative.

## UUU Church Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the UUUC Board of Directors

September 8, 2009



Members present: Gary Pischke, Anna Slemmer, Sara Byers, Marilynn Stephens, Paul Zegers, June Ervin, Rev. Holmes

### **Item: Rental House- update**

Action: We just had all bills for the rental house taken out of our name.

### **Item: Discussion of Board retreat agenda- evening meeting September 11**

Action: All board members should write down some goals of our church board. Then we will have Jacie and her ad-hoc committee put together a "vision" for us.

### **Item: Building Grant- progress update**

Action: Patrice valued our church property at \$425,000. Annie suggested that we go see the Moose Lodge and Mosher property on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Sara Byers thought we should get written agreements from various organizations (AA, daycare, etc.) stating that they would pay "x" amount of money for rent to us each month before we purchase a new building so we know we can afford the new mortgage. All members in favor.

### **Item: Auction Committee: update on progress**

Action: Sara passed out pamphlets to everyone a few weeks ago. June is handling the food. Doris and Sara are the co-chairs. Joyce Swanson is putting together an "Oregon-made" basket. They will be selling raffle tickets in October. Sara is going to do another movie night in her home. They also discussed having a progressive dinner along the river with the Pratt's, the Byer's and Doris Heyman. These would both be fundraisers.

### **Item: Update on Sabbatical- Sunday Services**

Action: January and March are full. February dates will be used for Ministerial speakers. For April, the Sunday Services Committee already has several good ideas for sermons and people to give them. Rev. Marge Keip is going to be the on-call minister during Annie's Sabbatical if we need her. The "third Sunday" will begin in October where we will probably answer questions about Annie's sabbatical.

### **Item: Congregational Meeting**

Action: Our Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 15th. We need a new Nominating Committee and a Volunteer Coordinator Committee chair. We will also be discussing the buildings we look at as we discuss relocating our church.

## New and Not-So-New Member Bio

### **Meet Mary Ann Wilcox**

By: Sheila Lawrence



Born in Queens, New York, Mary Ann's father, who worked for Walgreens, made a move to Minneapolis when Maryann was just six months old. Coincidentally, both Mary Ann and Pat Zemlin attended the same high school and both went on to the University of Minnesota where they sang in the University's chorus. With a bachelor's degree in nursing, Mary Ann followed her friends out to Southern California and finally settled in the Santa Cruz area, namely Sebastopol, where she practiced nursing at the Kaiser public health facility and where she also met her future husband Alexander, who worked for a company called Herbert's Sherbert.

At that time, pregnant and unmarried, Mary Ann decided, after the birth of her daughter, to place her for adoption. After her marriage to Alexander, the couple purchased a large home in order to house Maryann's mother who came out to live with them after the death of Mary Ann's father. During the twenty years they resided in Sebastopol, the Wilcox's produced two children, a son and a daughter, then sadly, during that time, Alexander lost part of his hand in a machine accident.

In 1994, now armed with the proceeds of a lawsuit, Alexander noticed an ad in the New York Times, listing a property on North Bank Road, in Roseburg - hence, the move to Oregon where they proceeded to build their lovely home.

With a burning desire to find her adoptive daughter who was now twenty four years old, Mary Ann plunged into the search. It took three years of plowing through birth records, social security numbers and adoption records, but Mary Ann's tenacity paid off. She was reunited with her twenty seven year old daughter who was, as Maryann announced, "so terribly happy to meet her new found brother and sister." When I asked about her Unitarianism, Mary Ann simply replied, "I've always been a Unitarian - my mother was and so am I." Today, Mary Ann is a birder - has been President of the Audubon Society, loves to read and dabble in water color, and sometimes quilts. She is the Tuesday office aid for our UU Church and is an integral part of the Committee on Ministry.

With great sadness, Alexander passed away earlier this year. We wish Mary Ann strength and happiness as she looks to the future.

## Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report and the Budget Report August 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 August.

Fish Contributions for August were \$184.00 plus food collected for the month. Total pledge income received in August was \$3,621.18

Total Plate Cash income received was \$551.00

Passthrough for Foster Grandparents was \$93.00.

The book sale received \$152.10 in August.

Other miscellaneous income in August was \$2,051.00 (Capital Improvement Fund)

Total Plate Cash pass through was \$292.00.

Book Store income was \$48.50.

We are low on our pledges received for the month.

Our expenses were higher due to payment of the UUA dues (\$1,848.00).

Total Income \$6,608.30 Total expense 8,698.58 (Income & expenses include the Pass through money).

Actual Church Income \$6,132.30. Actual Church Expense \$8,245.58.

Minister salary and expense for June is \$4,143.53

Our Membership is 67 members and 49 friends of the Church.

Gary Pischke, Temporary Co-Treasurer



## "A HARVEST OF HOPE"



### Umpqua UU Auction The Place to Be ... Saturday, October 24! 6:00-8:00pm

The 2009 is shaping to be the very best auction EVER! Donations for both the Silent and Oral Auctions are still coming in, including the following exciting, unique, interesting, fun items, among so many:

Creole dinner for eight, Movie Night at the Byers (this time with AC!), a two-night stay at a condo in Portland's Pearl District, paintings from Jemma Crae, Paul Zegers and Lucille Allred, a solar cook stove, homemade lap quilt, jewelry, a private yoga class for you and your friends, Make-a-Collage day, Reiki classes, massages, Feng Shui consultation, singing lesson, Eugene Garden Tour, Music on the Half Shell dinner for four, art prints, antique canning jars, furniture, geology field trip, English toffee ... the list goes on and on.

Silent Auction items will go on display downstairs on Monday, October 12. Bids can be made during normal church office hours and on October 18. Final bids will be entered during the Social Hour upstairs in the main sanctuary on the evening of the Auction, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Also, be sure to NOT eat dinner before coming to the Social Hour, since there will be an abundance of delicious gourmet hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Then a little after 7:00 p.m., the Oral Auction begins. Our auctioneer is none other than the incomparable Jody Ahlstedt, so hold onto our hats and get ready to have some good old-fashioned adult FUN! The raffle draw for the fabulous "Oregon Made" basket will happen then as well.

Let's all invite our friends to this fun event, especially those from outside our church community. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to get to know us and for us to expand our membership.

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

Visit the UUU website at [www.umpquachurch.org](http://www.umpquachurch.org) for a complete list of Auction items. Call Doris Heyman (957-0541), Sara Byers (672-8094) or the church office at 672-2250 for more information.



# October 2009

## Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>30</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation	<b>1</b> <b>6:00pm</b> - Choir - all are welcome!	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "Co-operative Housing" - Uta Stelson	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5:30pm</b> - Committee on Committees/Board meeting @ church	<b>7</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation <b>6:30-8:00pm</b> - "Dancing the Dream" class with Rev. Holmes	<b>8</b> <b>6:00pm</b> - Choir - all are welcome!	<b>9</b> <b>7:30pm</b> - Jenny Bird concert @ church with special guest Michael Mandrell	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "Vincent: A Light In the Shadows" - Rev. Holmes	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Noon</b> - Committee on Ministry meeting @ Church	<b>14</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation <b>6:30-8:00pm</b> - "Dancing the Dream" class with Rev. Holmes	<b>15</b> <b>6:00pm</b> - Choir - all are welcome!  <i>Newsletter articles due!</i>	<b>16</b> Southern Oregon Cluster Conference in Ashland	<b>17</b> <b>12:30-3:30pm</b> - Shamanic Journey Circle with Sharon Haag  Southern Oregon Cluster Conference in Ashland
<b>18</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "Secret Inheritance" - Rev. Holmes Southern Oregon Cluster Conference in Ashland	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation <b>6:30-8:00pm</b> - "Dancing the Dream" class with Rev. Holmes	<b>22</b> <b>6:00pm</b> - Choir - all are welcome!	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>6:00-8:00pm</b> - Harvest of Hope Auction @ Church
<b>25</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "Unmasking the Real Meaning of Halloween" - Rev. Holmes	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>6:30pm</b> - Sunday service meeting @ Jim Pratt's	<b>28</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation <b>5:00-8:00pm</b> - Halloween Pot-luck and Psychic Fair @ Church	<b>29</b> <b>6:00pm</b> - Choir - all are welcome!	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>