

**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

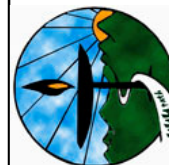
e-mail: [umquauu@cmspan.net](mailto:umquauu@cmspan.net)  
 Minister: [aholmes78@cmspan.net](mailto:aholmes78@cmspan.net)  
 cell: (541) 733-4017

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

**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.....Open  
 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.....Barbara Alvis  
 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**  
**November 2009**



**Sunday, November 1, 2009** Uta Stelson  
 "150 Year Celebration of the State of Oregon"

**Sunday, November 8, 2009** Rev. Holmes  
 "Similarities and Differences Between Religious Thought in 10 of the Largest of the World's Religions."

This sermon is pretty much what the title says. But bring your questions and I'll see if I can help give you some answers. This is also the Sunday we will recognize the new members who have recently joined our church. Welcome new members!

**Sunday, November 15, 2009** Rev. Holmes  
 "Embrace The Remembering"

A big surprise in our lives may be truly knowing what we know even when that knowing is right for us but may be in conflict with the world. This Sunday we will look at some of those "knowings" and some practical methods of sharing them without alienating other's sensibilities.

**Sunday, November 22, 2009** Rev. Holmes  
 "The Annual Great Give-Away Sunday"

In the tradition of the Sioux people and their idea of an "Otohua" or the give-away from what we already own, everyone, children and adults are asked, on this day, to bring something to church they already own and are ready to give away to someone else. These items could be a book, a scarf, a piece of jewelry, something useful from the kitchen etc. We will then place these gifts on the "groaning table" at the beginning of the service and everyone present will have a chance to take home something from the table as a gift. In giving and receiving we celebrate Thanksgiving with our Native American brothers and sisters.

**Sunday, November 29, 2009** Barb Alvis  
 "Celebrating our Favorite Poetry" Sunday.

## Reverend's Riffs

"Smiling While Filling the Bulk Food Containers at Sherms."

I was doing my every other week large shopping trip at Sherms last week, and there I was in the bulk food aisle and again, maybe for the fourth time, not sure where the almond granola container was. The woman who works in the bulk foods is the nicest person. She always has a smile and for the fourth time she calmly showed me where the container was and then pleasantly asked if there was anything else she could help me with. I said no and started to fill my bag when I noticed there was a woman in a wheelchair down the aisle from me who could not reach the upper level of containers. I was about to put down my bag of granola and try to help her when the smiling Sherms worker came over and helped that lady with not one, but four bags of items. And, she did it all with a quiet manner, steady even talk, and a magical rhythm to her movements. She was not hurried, she didn't seem impatient. And I was thinking, I see her there almost all the time I shop, and she must be tired by 3:00 in the afternoon. Maybe a backache or a headache. But she never let on any of those things to the lady in the wheelchair, or to me for that matter. We were never made to feel less than or a burden.

If any of you have ever worked retail you know people can be nasty, angry, unrealistic



in their demands and sometimes downright awful. People who serve others in retail, or in many service jobs often have to develop tough skins in order to continue doing what they need to do for their job. Life for many people in the work world becomes a chore and a drudgery, a barely making it through while watching the clock. But, for years now this woman in the bulk foods at Sherms has been pleasant, kind and helpful. And this last experience I had at the store reminded me of how I would want to live my life; pleasantly, kindly and helpfully. I don't know her name and I am going to make an effort to find that out the next time I shop there. But her blessing of the small world she lives and works in, is in my heart.

On the way home from Sherms I was finding myself driving with more care for other's needs. When I got home I didn't throw the groceries in the cupboard as I am apt to do, because I am in a hurry. More thoughtfully and with more care I set them in, making the small act of putting them away a spiritual practice, an honoring of what I had just bought and remembering the money I used to buy them came from the way I use my energy in the world.

What if you tried for a full day, a full week, a full year to be simply more kind, more

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Reflections of a Bookworm

*Book review by Julienne DeMarsh*

**THERE ARE NO MISTAKES BECOMING COMFORTABLE WITH LIFE AS IT IS, NOT AS IT "SHOULD" BE;** Eleanor Wiley, Conari\_Press, 2006

Eleanor Wiley is the creator of a popular line of contemporary prayer beads used daily by people around the world. In her beading workshops she urges her students to make the beading process a means of meditation. Gradually her students learned of her own personal story and so many of them requested that she write her story that this book came to be written.

A devastating personal loss as a young mother was followed by decades of disguised anguish, despair and anger, leading to her eventual alcohol addiction. The means by which she "recovered" are the outline of the book. Definitely not the familiar "12-step" process, her suggestions are absolutely practical, utterly simple and adaptable to anyone caught in a difficult life situation.

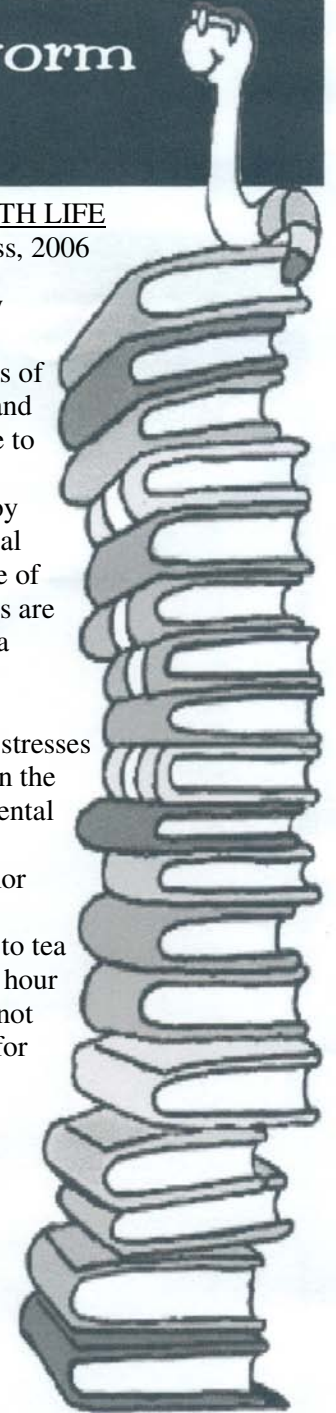
Eleanor wisely suggests that the word "should" and all its implications be banished from the vocabulary of the "recoveree". She stresses the role of self-acceptance in this very moment rather than sometime in the nebulous future as being critical for not just the "recoveree" but the mental health of all people. She has special suggestions for those who take themselves and life altogether too seriously....her opinion is that humor is a gift that becomes stale if it is not refreshed by daily usage.

Reading **THERE ARE NO MISTAKES** is like sitting down to tea with a good friend – no need for pretense or drama. Just an enjoyable hour with a wise friend sharing her life knowledge. The target audience is not limited to recovering addicts – I think it offers beneficial suggestions for anyone going through a "tough time".

### ***LAST CHANCE 10% OFF ALL TITLES***

The bookstore will be returning many unsold books to the publisher in order to make room for new titles. Now you get a 10% discount on any item and I have to pack fewer books – a "win-win" proposition for all of us! This offer won't last long, so do take advantage of the opportunity to buy a good read for a better price!

Please do let me know if you would like specific titles or subjects included in the next order. Remember to "THINK BOOKS" for holiday gift-giving.



## UUU Church Committee on Committees Meeting Minutes

October 6th, 2009



Members present: Lucy Harrington, Jim Pratt, Jacie Pratt, Gary Pischke, Lori Farmer, June Ervin, Paul Zegers, Judy Robertson, Kandie Kato, Anna Slemmer, Elizabeth Herbert, Marilynn Stephens, Lori Agost-Caley, and Rev. Annie Holmes

### **Item: Ad-hoc Committee**

Action: Pat Zemlin is interested in doing a questionnaire for the congregation.

### **Item: Adult Enrichment Opportunities (AEO) Committee**

Action: AEO has scheduled most of the dates from January-May 2010.

### **Item: Sunday Services Committee**

Action: Sunday Services are booked through the last week in December and half of spaces are booked during Rev. Annie's Sabbatical. We will have Ashland speakers during all of February.

### **Item: Music Committee**

Action: Bands will come play during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday services and will be paid \$50 a session. Elizabeth Herbert has created a "3rd Sunday Celebration", which will consist of outdoor activities. The whole congregation is welcome to participate. Some members would prefer these celebrations on Saturday, as it might interfere with church service. We will go back to singing "Go Now in Peace".

### **Item: Cares and Concerns Committee**

Action: Corrine McTaggart and Lori Agost-Caley will be assisting Joyce Swanson in mailing out cards to people while she is out of town. Mary Garvey is moving out of town shortly.

### **Item: Community Action Committee**

Action: The Ten Thousand Villages sale will be November 27th-28th. Anna would like suggestions for topic ideas for the First Sunday's Candle. They are planning Earth Day and will be choosing one people group and one animal group as recipients of our Christmas tree donations.

### **Item: Children's Religious Studies Committee**

Action: In November, Kandie will be doing a workshop for parents. In December, she will be talking with the kids about spiritual leaders from other religions and will have the children to do a music presentation and community activity.

### **Item: Membership Committee**

Action: We have had seven new members this year. The ceremony will be held November 8<sup>th</sup>. We had our first of four music events. Attendance was poor. Our goal was to get people around town to know us as a church. Our next one will be on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Soup Sunday will begin in November.

### **Item: Building Committee**

Action: Mel Watts replaced the upstairs lights with fluorescent bulbs which decreased energy usage.

*(Continued from page 2)*

pleasant and more helpful? How would your life change? How would the lives of those around you change? Wow. Seems simple enough. But hey, what about the telemarketer who has called for the fourth time this week – ah, yes, kind, pleasant and helpful. What about the...you know folks, there are going to be a hundred of those "what about the?" We all have them, but the question that begs to be answered is, what would I and the world around me be like if during this season of Thanksgiving I too was more kind, more pleasant, more helpful. I think the results would amaze us. As much as I was amazed by how I was treated at the bulk aisle at Sherms. I was reminded we don't always remember what people said, but we always remember how they acted and how that made us feel. Here's to feeling the real reason for Thanksgiving.

See you in church, Annie

### **September Board Retreat Recap**

At the September Board Retreat, there was a discussion of ways we can most effectively spread the UU message. Each month, a different Board member will share a vision of how this can be accomplished.

It's easy for me, a former evangelical Christian, to turn a discussion into a probing of one's spiritual beliefs. We were taught that was the main mission in life, and if we didn't take every opportunity to evangelize, we would fail God and humanity. That was quite

a task since all those we failed to "win over to Christ" would be damned for all eternity. It's such a pleasure to speak to people about spiritual matters, not because we fear damnation, but because we have a message of love, acceptance, and goodness!

I find most people are more than willing to share their religious beliefs with me, especially since I can quote Bible verses and share my evangelistic experiences with them. Invariably the question gets asked: "Are you a Christian?" The answer: "If you think a Christian is one who is born a sinner, and it took Jesus Christ to shed his blood for my sins, then I am not a Christian. But I can tell you that I was born good, continue to love and care for people, and consider myself a spiritual person. I believe there's a big difference between religion and spirituality, don't you?"

These discussions have been fruitful and sincere because people instinctively know whether we approach such emotionally-charged subjects with love and respect, or judgment. The most I can hope for is that someone will remember this exchange of ideas with a Unitarian Universalist, and will conclude that perhaps we have some interesting beliefs to share and compare. Recently a local pastor told me he had great respect for the life story and teachings of Buddha, and acknowledged that Eastern religions have a lot to offer. He acknowledged that his church is going through many changes, and is becoming much less judgmental and more accepting of different life styles, including homosexuality. Amen to that!

Anna Slemmer



November 2009

# Musings

Gary Pischke  
Church President

Continuing on a theme from last month related to the board meeting, some of the Board members consider the church environment to be stagnant. While as life goes on, nothing stays stagnant for very long. A flood or an event happens to help move life along. Roberta Hall has decided, due to many reasons, to resign from the music directorship. We are having to deal with the music program on our own, with Sharon Haag's help and the general resourcefulness of the choir.

Our congregation is slowly changing. Redge and Janet Ranyard have moved to the Eugene area to be near family. Other members may be moving away in the future. We are having new younger members and families join the congregation. Fresh thoughts on how the church should move along.

The Board needs your thoughts, the congregation's thoughts on how we should move the church along: in what direction. We have one the Board discussed, in terms of finding a new church building. We also now need a new music director. We also have a need for an office committee, a chair for the green sanctuary committee, and a nominating committee.

We are hoping to discuss the above topics and new topics of interesting at the November 15 congregational meeting. All members and friends should come so that we have a full voice of the congregation.

basket.

**Item: Update on Sabbatical Sunday Services**

Action: Sunday Services are booked through December. Half of the spaces are already booked during Rev. Annie's Sabbatical. Some speakers will not be paid. We will have Ashland speakers every week in February.

**Item: Discussion of Southern Oregon Cluster**

Action: People who plan on attending the Southern Oregon Cluster need to submit a registration form so they can plan for who is coming. At this point, we have about 6 people going to the retreat from our congregation.

**Item: Discussion of Congregation Meeting**

Action: Gary and Kara will put together an agenda by Halloween.

**Item: Discussion of purchasing a new office computer**

Action: We have been having issues with the main office computer recently. We are afraid that it is going to crash again soon like it did last year. Marilyn Stephens motioned that we get a new office computer. June second that motion. We will probably purchase a laptop. All members in favor.

**Next Board meeting: November 10th at 6:30pm at the UUUC.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kara Lomprey  
Church Administrator



Save This Date!

November 14, 2009

Time: 7:00pm

The Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

is proud to present the

**Umpqua Singers**

Directed by Jason Heald

Tickets are \$7.00 for teens and adults and \$12.00 for couples or families



## UUU Church Board Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2009



Members present: Gary Pischke, June Ervin, Paul Zegers, Marilyn Stephens, Rev. Annie Holmes

### **Item: Discussion of First-Aid Training**

Action: We decided to look at our first-aid kit and make sure the proper supplies are in it. Anna suggested that we have a training session about first-aid through Red Cross. Gary discussed having a first-aid training session for the whole congregation.

### **Item: Discussion of Rental House**

Action: Renters are still parking in an area they are not supposed to. Anna suggested putting up a sign along the fence that says “tenant parking”. Annie told Anna to ask Mel about getting a sign put up. They are going to allow 2 spaces along the fence designated to just “tenant parking”.

### **Item: Discussion of Real Estate Search**

Action: The Moose Lodge is priced at \$950,000, and has 11,500 square feet. The Mosher property is priced at \$250,000, and has 3,300 square feet. Our church is valued between \$450,000 and \$500,000 and has 3,600 square feet. After looking at both properties, our current facility looks much better in comparison to the Mosher place. The Moose Lodge looked huge but with our property value reduced if we sell, and even with the Moose reduced to \$750,000, there remains a sizable gap between the two prices.

### **Item: Discussion of Board Retreat**

Action: Each month a board member will share a vision about a way we can spread the UU word to others. Anna suggested that we wait until we have our Congregational Meeting to plan the next board retreat. Annie suggested February. They decided to make a decision on a date later.

### **Item: Building Grant Update**

Action: We plan to submit the required documents for this in November. This grant is from the PNWD. We are trying to get a grant for \$15,000 but it may end up as a loan with low interest. We have to wait and see what they offer us.

### **Item: Auction Committee Progress**

Action: The auction is progressing well at this point and a lot of items have been offered. A list of the items is on our church website. They are currently selling raffle tickets for the made in Oregon

## New and Not-So-New Member Bio

### **Meet Larry Flanagan**

By: Sheila Lawrence



I'd like to start this bio by saying that our Roseburg UU Church is comprised of extraordinary souls whose different natures and backgrounds could fill a global village, and all of them come to this small space on Watters Street to be together.

Take for instance, Larry Flanagan, a native of New Orleans, one of six children who was raised in a strict, Catholic family, eating, sleeping and breathing in Catholicism.

He attended spring Hall College in Mobile, AL, studying pre law and continued on to Law school, when he felt the calling, giving up a budding relationship in 1950 to enter the Jesuit Order in Grand Coteau, LA.

The following 15 years offered Larry, not only a thorough monastic life, but an exquisite education, including classical languages, where Latin was the spoken language of the day - history, (one of Larry's favorite subjects), and the nurturing of his spirituality.

From the Jesuit Seminary, Larry taught religion to Catholic students in public schools all the while continuing his studies in the classics, music, art and philosophy, and theology. While learning, he continued to teach, until he was ordained as a Priest, but strangely, he turned down many possible ministries, and volunteered to work with black-only churches.

He became the pastor of an all-black church in Louisiana, where he served for 8 years.

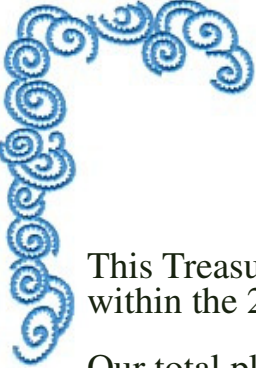
In 1973, after a period of reflection and prayer, he left the priesthood. He then worked for one year with the LSU Psychology Dept. then moved to California where he earned his Ph.D in psychology

His first job offer was as a forensic psychologist for Douglas County – Larry had found Roseburg. His first priority in 1977 was to develop an interagency program for incest offenders as well as their victims and families. He ran this programs from 1977 until 1987, and somewhere along the road of life, he began to realize he didn't have to be a Catholic any longer, and a sense of freedom ensued. John Lennon's song “Imagine,” helped change Larry forever.


In 1986, Larry met the woman he later married, and that same woman invited Larry to the Unitarian Church. The warm welcome, by the very people we cherish today, convinced him that is where he ought to be. Their marriage lasted 11 years.

From 1987 until today, Larry has been extremely active, serving a two year term as President and then a three year stint a few years later. Over the years, he has served on the Sunday

*(Continued on page 7)*



## Treasurer's Report



This Treasurer's Report and the Budget Report September 30, 2009 within the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Our total pledges for 2009-2010 are \$77,566.00. We received one new pledge in September.

Fish Contributions for September were \$221.00 plus food collected for the month.

Total pledge income received in September was \$5762.00.

Total Plate Cash income received was \$611.35.

Passthrough for Time Banking was \$271.75.

The book sale received \$12.00 in September.

Total Plate Cash pass through was \$184.00.

Book Store income was \$75.00.

Total Income \$6816.67 Total expense \$7829.48 (Income & expenses include the Pass through money)

Actual Church Income \$6632.67 Actual Church Expense \$7645.48  
Minister salary and expense for June is \$4443.53 (58%).

Our Membership is 70 members and 49 friends of the Church.

Gary Pischke, Temporary Co-Treasurer



Services Committee and various other committees.

Today he is married to the gracious and lovely Judy Robertson whom he married several years ago, and as he states, 'Our life is wonderful'. He loves delving into spirituality, historical readings, exercising and is an avid vegetarian except when his doctor orders up turkey to supplement his diet.

Lastly, Larry says, "And I love spending time with friends."

### ~~~~~ COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Your Committee on Ministry is back. We're here to again call your attention to the new experience we will soon be sharing: our minister will be on sabbatical.

Because Annie will be gone from January to April, 2010, certain preparations have been put in place which you will remember reading about in the September Umpquest.

In addition, we anticipate a healthy discussion of sabbaticals in general and Annie's in particular, at the November 15th Congregational meeting. The following are some of the questions we anticipate from the congregation:

1. "Who's going to take care of us while Annie is gone?"
  - A) If there is a serious emergency i.e. a death or serious injury, Rev. Marge Kiep, who is a part time minister and lives in Grants Pass, has promised to step in to assist us.
  - B) Our regular Sunday services will be the responsibility of the Sunday Services Committee, which has been arranging to fill the pulpit for those months.
2. "Can we call Annie with questions even though she's on sabbatical?" "What if we just want to talk to her?" No, the protocol for sabbaticals allows no phone calls, but Annie suggests that we can email her.
3. "What if we have a question about ministry?" That's the time to get in touch with the Committee on Ministry.
4. "Suppose we have a need for guidance on a spiritual quest or struggle?" The Committee on Ministry is forming a cadre of wise congregants who could respond to the needs of an individual.
5. "If someone has a question about a church policy to whom should they go?" The church Board of Directors will answer these concerns.

The members of the Committee on Ministry: Mary Ann Wilcox, Pat Zemlin and Chair Judy Robertson, are looking forward to seeing you at November's Congregational meeting.



# November 2009

## Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "150 Year Celebration of the State of Oregon" - Uta Stelson	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation  <b>6:30pm</b> - AEO "Faith and Your Real Life"	<b>5</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> - Choir - all are welcome!	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "Similarities and Differences Between Religious Thought in 10 of the Largest of the World's Religions" - Rev. Holmes	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>Noon</b> - Committee on Ministry Meeting  <b>6:30pm</b> - Board Meeting @ Church	<b>11</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation  <b>6:30pm</b> - AEO "Covenant Groups"	<b>12</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> - Choir - all are welcome!	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b> <b>1:00-4:00pm</b> - Women's "Crafternoon" @ Church  <b>7:00pm</b> - Festival of Music with the Umpqua Singers
<b>15</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "Embrace The Remembering" - Rev. Holmes <u>Congregational Meeting will follow</u> <i>Newsletter articles due!</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> - Sunday Service's meeting @ Jim Pratt's house	<b>18</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation  <b>6:30pm</b> - AEO "Trash Talk!"	<b>19</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> - Choir - all are welcome!	<b>20</b>  <b>11am</b> - Membership meeting @ Church	<b>21</b>  <b>12:30-3:30pm</b> - Shamanic Journey Circle with Sharon Haag
<b>22</b> <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "The Annual Great Give-Away Sunday" - Rev. Holmes	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>11:30am</b> - Mindfulness Meditation	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Ten Thousand Villages Sale @ Church	<b>28</b>  Ten Thousand Villages Sale @ Church
<b>29</b>  <b>10:30am</b> - Sunday Service "Celebrating Our Favorite Poetry"	<b>30</b>					