

Unity of Salem Newsletter

May/June 2006

2006: The Never Ending Story – God Is

Minister's Message

A few weeks ago I invited the congregation to make suggestions to me about what they would like me to include in my Sunday morning themes.

Approximately 85% of the suggestions were about forgiveness, surrender, letting go and releasing. All of which mean about the same thing.

Obviously this spiritual concept of forgiving and letting go is a big one for folks, and a difficult one for many. We see so many horrible things coming through our television sets that one does wonder how we are to forgive people who terrorize innocent people, killing and slaughtering people with no apparent thought. Listening to a terrorist being interviewed from prison on 60 Minutes the other evening and hearing him say that his biggest regret is that he managed to kill ONLY 66 people simply stunned me. Most of you reading these words haven't had such atrocities in your lives, but you have had things happen to you that have hurt you, perhaps wounded you deeply; and, yet on our Spiritual path we are told, even encouraged, to forgive. Scripture tells us to forgive, and yet it is obvious that folks still struggle with this Spiritual concept, the willingness to do it, and the ability to know how to forgive.

I recently read a book entitled "LEFT TO TELL" which was written by a friend of Dr. Wayne Dyer by the name of Immaculee Ilibagiza. Immaculee lived in Rwanda during the 1994 holocaust in which the Hutu tribe attempted to annihilate the Tutsi tribe. Immaculee was a Tutsi and managed to survive the slaughter for 91 days as she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor's home while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them.



It was during this 91 day period that Immaculee was transformed from a consciousness of hate, rage and revenge to one of compassion for the killers of her family and friends. Through her deep, deep prayer life (sometimes she prayed for 16 to 20 hours out of 24) that she was able to truly move into the consciousness of Jesus and say, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Immaculee learned to forgive as Jesus forgave. She learned to let go of her rage and need for revenge, and to hold in her heart "all" of God's children.

Forgiveness is a process. Usually it is not something we achieve over night which is why Jesus taught us to forgive "seventy times seven" if necessary. Forgiveness is a personal spiritual triumph. The one doing the forgiving is the one who is freed. Alan Cohen reminds us that, "Forgiveness is not just a wimpy act of withholding an attack for a wrongdoing; it is a dynamic, creative, and practical force that has the power to manifest miracles. When we let go of judgment, we free ourselves to enjoy a peace that surpasses anything the world has to offer. ... (Forgiveness) is a sacred gift employed by those who recognize that their true safety comes not from worldly manipulation, but from faith in a higher power. There is nothing in this world that cannot be healed by forgiveness." Truly, that is the lesson that Immaculee is trying to teach us through her story in "LEFT TO TELL".

Peace and Blessings,

Georgie Richardson, Minister

BOARD MEMBERS

President ----- Dr. Bonnie Jean Young
Vice President - Reinholdt Leske
Secretary ----- Denita Wallace
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Ed Lent
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Kathy Munsel
Pianists
Christine Shepherd
Rebecca Shepard

LICENSED TEACHERS

Diana Moskal
Ann Armstrong

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES--by Bonnie Jean Young, President

Building Maintenance--The problems with water and drainage have been solved momentarily, but the Board is seeking a permanent solution. Wally is asking for advice about installing French Drains around the Sanctuary to carry off and divert excess ground water during heavy rains.

Communications--Community Sharing--The Board held its fourth community-sharing meeting this year in the form of a potluck after church and then a report from the Energizing 9 Acres Committee. Reiny Leske distributed an aerial map showing our church property and a list of the proposed projects. Dick Thomas conducted the meeting and called upon committee members Peggy Brown, Jim Harris, and Bonnie Young, Board President, to discuss the elements of the plan. Kara Driscoll, an active committee member, had a conflict and could not attend. The map and the list of projects are hung on the north wall of the Sanctuary. Thirty-six people attended and gave many good suggestions and ideas.

Communications--Newsletter Calendars--Did you notice that the newsletter has two monthly calendars for you to post on your refrigerator? Linda Peterson uses them to organize her church life. Thanks for the idea, Linda.

Communications--Suggestion Box--Did you know that the "Oldie but Goodie" tunes that are suggested by you each month are searched to find the ones that fit with the Sunday Service Themes? I recognized "In the Garden" and "Count Your Blessings". Did you?

Beautification Around the Unity Sign--Have you noticed the gorgeous new red leaf growth on the Large-Leaf Photinia planted behind the Unity sign? Also, aren't the flowering trees beautiful? Next, the grasses will start new growth--Enjoy these signs of spring.

Expansion of the Parking Area--Just in time for Palm Sunday, the new Parking Lot to the right of the entry driveway appeared. We have a berm down the center and one on the north and the south sides. How wonderful it is to see 38 more parking spaces available. The center berm has an electric line and a water line so we can beautify it.

President's Message Continues....

DIAL-A-PRAYER
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<http://www.unityofsalem.com/>
E-Mail: unityonthehill@aol.com
Unity of Salem
Phone: 503 364-0156
Office Hours: 10-4 Mon. - Thurs.
P.O. Box 3518
Salem, OR 97302
Sunday Service at 10:30 AM

Karl Anthony in Concert

He is coming on Monday, May 22 at 7:00 PM.
Suggested Donation is \$10

Karl has an exciting ability to connect to the heart and soul of his audience. Karl's strong and distinctive voice drives his social action singer/songwriter style, which is a cross between Sting, Steely Dan, Cat Stevens and James Taylor. Karl has a way of putting into words the things the rest of us want and need to say but are unsure how. His lyrics are poignant and the listener is swept away on a personal journey. He creates anthems for life and is a long time favorite here at Unity of Salem. Georgie, Ann and Diana said "He had us laughing, crying and singing last year at the Northwest Regional meetings." Come and have your heart opened!

His website is: <http://www.karlanthony.com/>



Co-Ed Retreat

We will be having our Co-Ed (men and women) Retreat at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, Oregon. It overlooks the Columbia Gorge with 100 acres of lawns, woodlands and gardens. It will start with dinner on Friday night, October 6 and finish by noon on Sunday, Oct. 8. This is a beautiful place and yummy food! Mark your calendars for this retreat!

Georgie Richardson, Diana Moskal and Rebecca Shepard will facilitate the retreat. The cost of the retreat, which will include 2 nights lodging and 5 meals, is \$175. In order to meet our payment deadline with Menucha, please sign up and pay a \$100 deposit by Sunday, July 2. Checks can be made out to Unity of Salem.

Any questions see Diana!



Aslan Is On The Move:

Unity of Salem's Reader's Theater and Rev. Richardson will present a seven-week series on the Chronicles of Narnia. The series will begin on Sunday, June 25th as we present the first of the seven books entitled, "The Magician's Nephew".

ALSO, in conjunction with the Sunday series, a book discussion group will be held on Thursdays at 1:00 and 7:00. Beginning on Thursday, June 22nd we will discuss "The Magician's Nephew". Books are available in the bookstore. The book discussion group will be on a love-offering basis.

Annual Meeting:

Unity of Salem will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2006 at 12:00 in the Sanctuary at 1777 Fabry Road. Everyone is welcome to attend. Only members will be voting.

Peggy Brown

My name is Peggy Brown and I am running for a position on the board of trustees here at Unity of Salem. My history with Unity of Salem started back in 1989 and since then I have worked throughout the church. I worked with the children in the Angel Place, I was on the Board of Trustees for 5 years serving as alternate, Secretary, Vice President and then President, in between working with the Uniteens and the YOUer's. I usher, work in the bookstore, am a welcome person and have recently taken on 6 roses in our rose garden. I have attended many classes, workshops, retreats and concerts here that have left me uplifted and renewed again and again in what a wonderful spiritual community we have. I feel led to give back to our church family by assisting in our business meetings as a representative of all of you as a trustee.

Dick Thomas

I have been with Unity of Salem as a member for 20 years.

I am a current board member and member of the "Energizing 9 acres" group. I believe in volunteering my talents and helping Unity of Salem grow. As a Board member I work with the other members to ensure that the church is run in as efficient manner as possible.

I also want to encourage anyone who is at all interested in applying their talents, to run for the Board.

Reiny Leske

I am Reiny Leske your present Vice President. This has been a very exciting year for the Board of Trustees and I am happy that I was able to participate in it. During the past few years I participated in many workshops, retreats, and most recently the Five Gifts and The Journey That Never Was. They were very influential in my journey. Also, I participate in the Reader's Theater and the Taize Healing Service.

They have been very important for me, but they also permit me to give something to the congregation. Most recently I spearheaded the committee, Energizing 9 Acres.

The first outcome was the new parking lot. There is much more to do and I would like to continue in these efforts and seek your backing. Thank you.

Denita Wallace

I came to Unity of Salem nine years ago when my husband, Jim and I moved here from San Jose. I had actually lived in Salem once before when I was in elementary and junior high school, so this was really coming home for me. I love the feeling of community in the Unity family and this, too is home for me. Now I live on a small farm just south of Salem in Jefferson.

I have been on the board for the last few years and have really enjoyed working with the board members. We have been able to accomplish a great deal with cooperation and mutual respect. Although I now have a full time job which requires travel, being an alternate will allow me to continue giving my time and attention to the church board.

There is One Presence and One Power in the Universe and in my life -- God, the Good, Omnipotent.

President's Message continues...

Barn Is Clean and Organized--A work group of Reiny Leske, Dick Thomas, Nancie Anderson and Wally Wallace finished the job of cleaning the Barn and organizing the tools, lawnmowers, wood, paint, and gasoline so that we have a safe environment in which to store them. Thanks, folks. We will be adding signs that say "No Smoking or Open Flames"

Grounds Clean-Up Day--About 20 people cleaned flower beds, pruned bushes, planted flowers, and spread compost to dress our Church grounds for Palm Sunday and Easter Services. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and the pizza.

Free Workshop on Pruning and Caring for Roses was held in April--Master Gardener Bonnie Jean Young held a class after church to help folks learn to care for roses and to encourage people to adopt 4 of the roses in the Unity of Salem Rose Garden. We have 108 roses! We could use some more volunteers.

New Budget for 2006-2007 Passed by Board--On April 24th the Board passed a new budget for the coming year that will be presented at the Annual Meeting on May 21st.

Directory Has Been Updated. --People attending the church are asked to provide up-to-date information for a new directory addendum. They are available in the kitchen.

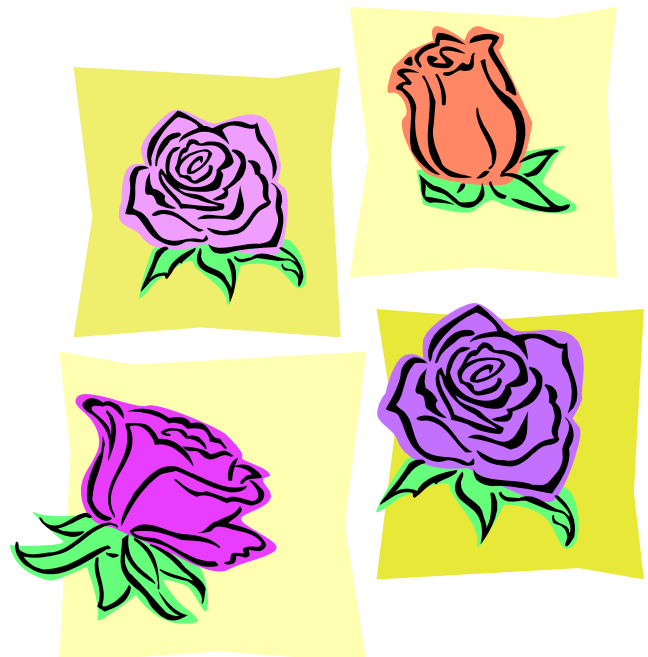
Data Collection Policies Passed by Board--The Board adopted new data collection policies that protect the privacy of Unity attendees.

Annual Meeting Scheduled-- Members will be attending the Annual Meeting of Unity of Salem on May 21st after church. The business will include the election of Board members, the approval of the 2006-2007 budget, the Minister's Report, and the Board President's Report.

Nature-Meditation Path in the Grove of Trees--The Grove of trees to the South of the Church will be transformed this summer and this fall. The plant material will all be Pacific Northwest Native Plants. The best local collection can be found back of the P.E. Building on the Willamette University Campus. Everything is marked on metal labels. Go look at the collection and then check your own plants to see if you might have some extra. Some of the items we want to obtain from people are Trillium, Oregon Grape, Lupine, Camas Lilly, Sword Fern, Maidenhair Fern, and Alpine Strawberry. Just to name a few. If you can help, call Dick Thomas.

Final Words--As we come to a close on the year 2005-2006, I want to say some things about this Board of Trustees. I have never worked with as dedicated a group of Board members in any other organization. We should all be proud of the contributions the Board members have made this year. We have worked so well together that it is no wonder that all the Board members are running again. I want to thank each of the Board for a productive and spiritual experience. It has been my pleasure to serve.

--Love to all---Bonnie Jean



Chaplain Team

Our Chaplains will be honored on Sunday, May 7 at the Sunday service. They are AWESOME people who have been serving in various ways -- praying one on one with people after Sunday services, assisting with special services such as Maundy Thursday, visiting people who can't attend on Sundays, making monthly Wellness calls, holding the Board of Trustees in prayer during their meetings, energizing prayer requests in the prayer container and "showing up" to be the hands, heart and voice of God in expression! Bless Your Hearts for performing a mighty service to our spiritual community! You are very much appreciated!

The Creative Process

Using the
SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION
As a Model in
MANIFESTING THE LIFE YOU WANT TO LIVE
Facilitated by Ann Armstrong

What: A Six Weeks Class
When: Thursday Evenings
May 16 to June 20 @ 7:00 PM
Where: Unity of Salem
Cost: Love Offering

What do you want to Create in your life? Peace of Mind? Loving Relationships? Increased Health? Physical Prosperity? Right Livelihood?

Join this class as we explore the Metaphysical Meanings of the Seven Days of Creation and how we can USE this PATTERN to CREATE THE LIFE WE DESIRE!

Birthdays

May. 1 st	Bea Sotomayer
May. 2 nd	Mary Tippner
May. 13 th	Marcia Timm
May. 13 th	Rosie Daily
May. 16 th	Steve Shepard
May. 17 th	Ellen McCaig
May. 21 st	Roger Heusser
May. 26 th	Sherri Smith
June 7 th	Sarah Monahan
June 13 th	Inge Burke
June 15 th	Nadine Heusser
June 22 nd	Dorothy Lucas
June 25 th	CJ Jones
June 25 th	Jessie Hopkins
June 26 th	Bonnie Beard

Taize Healing Prayer Service:

Wednesday, June 7, 2006, 7:00 p.m. will be the next Taize Healing Prayer service. Plan to join us for this wonderful healing prayer service.



COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Daily: Pause for Peace 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.

"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with God's love in my heart"

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. service and youth education.

First and third Sundays: Pathfinders 9:00 a.m. in the Bookstore – Everyone Welcome!

Thursdays: Noon meditation, followed by brown-bag lunch.

Saturdays: In March & April – 9:30 a.m. – Spring Forest Qigong.

May. 7th: Pathfinders at 9:00 a.m. in the Bookstore. Facilitated by Ed and Kay Lent **and:** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

May. 16th: Six Week Class – "Seven Days of Creation" – facilitated by Ann Armstrong starts @ 7:00 p.m.

May. 21th: Pathfinders at 9:00 a.m. in the Bookstore **and:** Annual Meeting, Sanctuary 12:00 noon **and:** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

May. 22th: Karl Anthony in Concert at 7:00 p.m.

June. 2-4th: Women's Retreat – "Just Be"

Jun. 4th: Pathfinders at 9:00 a.m. in the Bookstore. Facilitated by Ed and Kay Lent **and:** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

Jun. 18th: Pathfinders at 9:00 a.m. in the Bookstore. Facilitated by Ed and Kay Lent **and:** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 17-20th: Northwest Region Retreat at Fort Worden in WA

Oct. 6-8th: Co-Ed Retreat at Menucha

**Thank You, Thank You! And Hats Off To:**

ALL the folks who showed up to clean up our grounds on Saturday, April 8th.

Diana Moskal for doing our pizza-for-lunch run.

Bonnie Jean Young and all of the Unity of Salem "Rosearians" who have adopted roses in our rose garden.

Carol and Paul Wilson for hosting Candace and DavidPaul Doyle.

Ed and Kay Lent for hosting Pathfinders. NOTE: Pathfinders will meet through the month of June.

Thank you to **Ginny King, Sandra Gregory,** and **Beverly Dargo** for making coffee and serving refreshments after church on special Sundays.

Gerda Skolnik for making our Sunday cassette tapes for mailing.

Happy Summer!

May Church Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. – Youth Education is available.	1.	2.	3.	4. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	5.	6.
7. 9:00 am: Pathfinders 6:30 pm: Taize Healing Prayer Service & Noetic Science	8.	9.	10.	11. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	12.	13.
14.	15.	16. 7:00 pm: Class – “Seven Days of Creation” facilitated by Ann Armstrong	17.	18. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	19.	20.
21. 9:00 am: Pathfinders 12:00 noon: Annual Meeting 6:30 pm: Noetic Science	22. 7:00 pm: Karl Anthony in Concert	23. 7:00 pm: Class – “Seven Days of Creation” facilitated by Ann Armstrong	24.	25. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	26.	27.
28.	29.	30. 6:30 pm: Board Meeting 7:00 pm: Class – “Seven Days of Creation” facilitated by Ann Armstrong	31.			

June Church Calendar

June				1.	2. Women's Retreat – "Just Be"	3. Women's Retreat – "Just Be"
4. 9:00 am: Pathfinders 6:30 pm: Noetic Science Women's Retreat – "Just Be"	5.	6. 7:00 pm: Class – "Seven Days of Creation" facilitated by Ann Armstrong	7. 7:00 pm: Taize Healing Prayer Service	8. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	9.	10.
11. Sunday Service: Honoring the Children.	12.	13. 7:00 pm: Class – "Seven Days of Creation" facilitated by Ann Armstrong	14.	15. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	16.	17.
18. 9:00 am: Pathfinders 6:30 pm: Noetic Science	19.	20. 7:00 pm: Class – "Seven Days of Creation" facilitated by Ann Armstrong	21.	22. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	23.	24. 9
25.	26. 7:00 pm: Board Meeting	27.	28.	29. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	30.	

**Unity of Salem
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