

# Unity of Salem Newsletter

September/October 2006

2006: The Never Ending Story – God Is

## Minister's Message

Before I sat down to write this Minister's Message to you I asked a friend what they would like to read in this Newsletter from the minister. With hardly any hesitation, my friend said, "Speak to the upheaval in the world." That is certainly a daunting subject, but I'll see what I can do.

Just the other day we heard that BP Oil has to replace 16 miles of the Alaska pipe line that means that they have to shut down oil production for some months which means that our gasoline prices (already straining our budgets) will go up at least another 10 cents a gallon. Things in Iraq have deteriorated to the place that our Generals are speaking about the possibility of civil war in that country. Israel flew into a rage over three of their people being kidnapped -- one by Palestine and two by the Hezbollah organization out of Lebanon. Now we have a mini-war going on in those countries, people dying, infrastructure in southern Lebanon being totally wiped out, and tempers escalating as world leaders try to come to an agreement on how to get a lasting cease fire in place. Those are just a few of the events in our world of which my friend was speaking when she talked about the "upheaval in our world."

For many, many years now we in the United States have been saying NO to negative forces by installing in our consciousness an intent to declare war on crime, war on drugs, and war on terrorists; and, yet all of those negative forces have grown stronger with our focus and consciousness of declaring war on all of them. Do you suppose the idea of declaring WAR on things just isn't working? Do you think it might be time we turned our collective consciousness toward what we want to say YES to and began to focus our attention and our energy in that direction?



We recently changed the words to our Peace Song at Unity of Salem so that we are singing, "YES, there is peace on earth." We did that because it feels good.

When something feels good, we are in alignment with the Universe as the Universe is always saying YES to the good. Jesus said it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. The Universe,

or God, is good, is love and only through our conscious connection to that energy of love, of good, will we draw the experience of peace, prosperity, health and harmony into our lives.

Through that focus on what feels good, we turn our consciousness away from feeding any energy to the negative forces that we truly don't want to experience whether these forces are worldwide or in our own family.

Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly." (Jn 10:10) That is such a feel good statement. Jesus is telling us that life truly is filled with joy and abundance, with a feeling of harmony, with an experience of loving creativity, all those attributes of the "Kingdom". He didn't tell us to declare war on everything we don't want, no, instead He said, "what is that to thee, follow thou me."

*Minister's message continues....*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**President** ----- Dr. Bonnie Jean Young  
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**Secretary** ----- Peggy Brown  
**Treasurer** ----- Carol Wilson  
**Members** ----- Dick Thomas  
Ed Lent  
**Alternate** ----- Denita Wallace

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**Music/Choir Director**  
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**Pianists**  
Christine Shepherd  
Rebecca Shepard

**LICENSED TEACHERS**

Diana Moskal  
Ann Armstrong

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

**JOIN the CELEBRATION.** Sunday, **September 3rd**, we celebrate Rev. Georgie Richardson's beginning of her **14th year** at Unity of Salem. Come join the festivities and honor Georgie. Bring a thank you card and stay after church for cake and coffee.

**Finances.** The report for the first month into the new budget year was within the parameters of our projections. However, Sunday attendance was less in June and July, so I want to thank all of you who send in your weekly contributions whether you are in attendance on Sunday or not. We appreciate being able to meet our operating expenses without dipping into our savings.

**Rumors Squelched.** A few members of our congregation have been concerned that the Board might have sold some of our land. No, the By-Laws prevent us from doing that without first going to the membership in a special meeting and receiving an affirmative vote for such a proposal. To set the record straight--we have never owned the land to the right of our entrance from Fabry road. We own 9 acres up here on our hill. The Lutheran Church is building on 11 acres north of us, and a private contractor is building houses near our entrance. Who knows--maybe the new residents will join our congregation! Another opportunity! God is our source!

**Communication with Team Leaders and Staff Members.** The Board of Trustees will continue its practice of inviting team leaders and staff members to talk with us during the open 6:30-7:00 p.m. slot before our monthly board meetings.

**Board Retreat.** The new Board of Trustees took a Saturday morning to retreat on our hill and explore Edwene Gaines' materials. Rev. Georgie provided Videos, notes, and a venue for discussion of Edwene's concepts about Tithing and Giving. We are challenged to make some decisions for the 2007-2008 budget in regard to the church's tithing and giving practices.

**Signage.** Thanks to Nancy Anderson and Jim Wallace who put the final touches on the Sanctuary sign.

*President's Message Continues...*

**DIAL-A-PRAYER**  
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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

**THE JUDAS GOSPEL:***The Positive Power of Negative Events*

You may have recently heard about or seen the National Geographic special on the ancient Gospel of Judas that has been hidden in the Egyptian desert for 16 centuries. What is it? Of what value is it to the average person interested in spirituality?

The Gospel of Judas turns much traditional religion and some modern psychology upside down. In this ancient 2nd century gospel, Jesus tells Judas to help him shed his body that he might know his soul. Judas is not a traitor, but a sort of savior. Talk about optimism?

Michael Bogar, D.Div., Th.M. explores the Gospel of Judas and the radical spiritual implications it has for us today during a workshop:

Sunday, Oct. 1, 2006 1:00-4:00

Unity of Salem

\$20.00 for singles, \$35.00 for couples (scholarships available)

(Michael will also be the guest speaker for the Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.)

Michael Bogar holds two Master degrees and has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He speaks, conducts classes, seminars and workshops in the U.S. and Canada.



Michael's approach is real. He has been through the valleys and peaks of life. His approach is not merely academic, but combines humor, well-researched information and practical application to all areas of life.

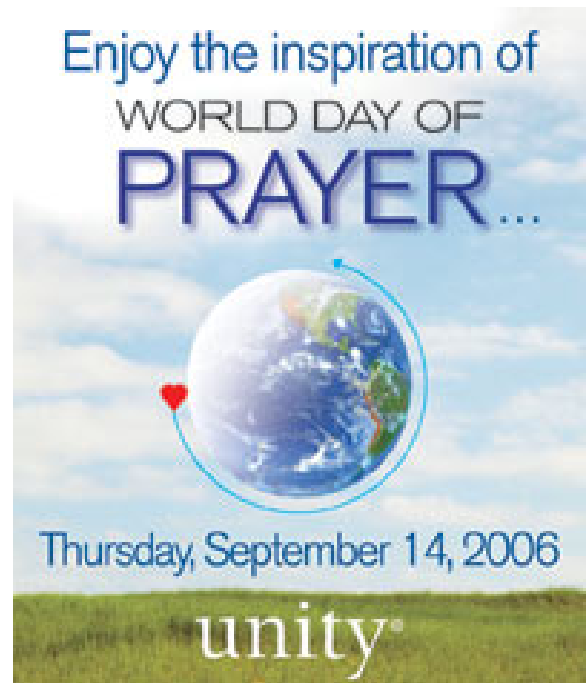
MARK YOUR CALENDAR, BRING A FRIEND, AND JOIN MICHAEL AT UNITY OF SALEM ON OCT. 1ST.

**TAIZE HEALING PRAYER SERVICE:**

Plan to join us on Wednesday evening, September 6th at 7:00 for the Taize Healing Prayer Service. Your heart will be opened, your soul will be moved, and healings will occur during this very sacred service.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:**

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006 is Unity's World Day of Prayer. The Chaplain Team will be presenting a Prayer Service at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. The church will be open all day for prayer. Please plan to join us for this important service.

**END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME:**

Remember to fall back to Standard Time on Sunday October 29th.

## Youth Education

Autumn 2006 welcomes back our teens, kids and toddlers from summer activities.

1. Angel Place kids will practice using their 12 gifts from God through clowning.
2. Uniteens will participate in the Regional Autumn Unitreat.
3. Y.O.U.er's will enjoy a Regional Rally in October.

On the home front, look for a spirit-filled fund raiser great for gifts. Think Christmas.

Thanks to Stein, Marilee and Steve for their loving, ongoing sponsorship of Y.O.U. and Uniteens. Welcome Back, Denita, to Uniteens, and welcome back to Erica and Allison to the Angel Place. We are all looking forward to a rewarding fall season.

Sharon Viehdorfer  
Youth Education Director

## I OF THE STORM CLASS:

Join us for an eight week class on the nature of conflict beginning Tuesday Sept. 5th.

We will learn how to go beyond merely managing conflict in our lives to actually embracing the conflict, allowing it to teach us what we otherwise might not learn, leading to peacemaking -- in ourselves, our relationships and outer circumstances of our lives. Class begins at 7:00 and is given on a love offering basis.

## JOINING UNITY OF SALEM:

Once a year Unity of Salem receives new members into the church. Unity membership is unique. The most important requirement for membership in Unity is to know God and desire to understand, love, and follow Universal Spiritual Laws, which are God's laws of being. Membership in Unity leaves the member wholly free to live their life according to the inspiration of the Spirit of Truth within them.

Because we feel it is very important that a new member fully understand the Universal Spiritual laws before they make a final decision to join the church, we offer a proposed new member a membership program. Everyone who intends to join the church will be required to attend an Orientation Meeting, a New Membership class, a workshop on prayer and a service workshop. The Orientation Meeting will give you an overview of Unity in general, and Unity of Salem in particular. All new members will also be assigned a Mentor who will be there to support you, pray with you and answer questions as needed.

The dates for these upcoming membership requirements are:

Orientation meeting:	Sat., Dec. 2nd 10:00--12:30
New Member Class:	Thursdays, Jan 4 - Feb 8, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Workshop:	to be decided
Service Workshop:	to be decided
New Member Sunday:	March 25, 2007 (during the Worship Service)

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

### President's Message continues...

**Northwest Regional Retreat** . Board members are making reservations to attend the retreat which will not be held at Crystal Mountain this year due to renovation of some buildings and rebuilding of the access roads. The retreat will be held on the northern coast of Washington.

**Planting of the Berms in the Parking Lot.** Dick Thomas has suggested that we plant yellow flowers that bloom all year after the water feature and lights are installed in the new parking lot.

The Board of Trustees wants to thank you for the trust you have placed in us to carryout the business affairs of Unity of Salem. And we continue to thank you for your prayers on our behalf and the prayers of the Chaplains during our Board meetings. No wonder we feel such a sense of well-being and are able to accomplish our work with such joy. . . . .



### Minister's Message continues...

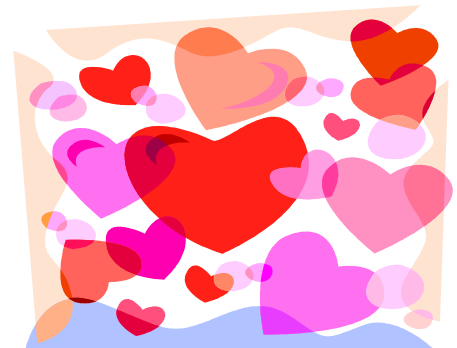
Everyone of you who read this message has the opportunity right now to decide to embrace a feel good consciousness focused on life, on joy, prosperity, peace, harmony, and love. Don't even bother to "just say no" -- JUST SAY YES.

YES to the Universe, YES to the Kingdom, YES to abundance, and YES to a life lived with your neighbor in harmony. Know that there is no scarcity in the Universe, there is only plenty, plenty, plenty - plenty of joy, plenty of peace, plenty of love, plenty of money, plenty of health -- plenty, plenty, plenty.

So, if the state of the world is getting you down -- don't go there! Do whatever you have to do to raise your vibrations, step by step by step until you are saying YES to the Universe and watch those doors fly open to your greater good, watch the windows of Heaven open to pour blessings upon blessings out to you; and, then --- pass it forward. Share your smile with the checker at the grocery store. Wave to the workers at a construction or highway site who are working in the heat -- send them a blessing. Bless the person who cuts you off in traffic. A blessing keeps your vibration in a feel good range -- a curse puts you on a detour course and you are out of alignment with your well-being. Wherever and whenever you can send out bouquets of blessings -- you can change the state of the world -- the choice is yours.

Peace and Blessings,

Georgie



**CHAPLAIN TEAM**

At our June meeting, we honored Ruth MacLeod who will be moving as she accepted a State job in Portland -- licensing nurses. Our prayers are with her as she experiences a new beginning in her life.

We now have 13 Chaplains trained to hold spiritual space, listen with compassion, pray from the heart and honor confidentiality. A Chaplain is always available after the Sunday service to pray one on one with people. Chaplains are also available to make monthly Wellness Calls. During the calls, he/she will ask, "how may I pray with you?" If you would like to have a Chaplain call you monthly for prayer, please fill out a "Chaplain Request" form on the kitchen counter and put it in the offering or call the church office -- 503-364-0156.

Since Unity has its roots in prayer, we feel honored to offer many avenues of service to our spiritual community. Any questions, call Diana in the office.

**Sharon Viehdorfer - Second Year Chaplain**

I'm 55, single, Unity's Youth Education Director, Life-long learner, daughter to a charming father, and mother to two exceptional sons.

Spirit moved me to join the Chaplaincy Team at a time when life was at best difficult. Choosing to practice the presence with and for others in prayer assisted me in remembering the magic that happens at the end of a storm when trust is restored. I am grateful for the opportunity to share myself with you in a prayerful way throughout the next year. You may find me in the Angel Place on Sunday mornings serving our pint-sized congregation. I am available after service to anyone requesting prayer.

**Birthdays**

Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Betty Sword
Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rose Beutler
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nanci Anderson
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa Lee
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Lent
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Joy Yount
Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth MacLeod
Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Rebecca Shepard
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Thomas
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Williams
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Peterson
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Beeson
Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sharon Viehdorfer
Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Sawyer
Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Wieczorek
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Darryel Bibleheimer
Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Bunn
Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Kara Driskell
Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sharon Burge
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Wilson
Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Peggy Brown

**Pathfinders start up again**

Pathfinders, facilitated by Kay and Ed lent, will start again in September. We will meet at 9:00 am in the bookstore on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. The discussions center around using Unity principles in our daily lives.



**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 am in the Bookstore..

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

**Saturdays:** 9:30 a.m. – Spring Forest Qigong.

**Sept. 3rd:** 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.

**Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>:** Class facilitated by Georgie starts – “I of the Storm”

**Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Taize Healing Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

**Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>:** Movie “The Secret” at 7:00 p.m.

**Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>:** World Day of Prayer – Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Pathfinders at 9:00 a.m. in the Bookstore. Facilitated by Ed and Kay Lent **and;** Lisa Lee in Concert 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **and:** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>:** Pathfinders at 9:00 a.m. in the Bookstore **and:** Workshop by Michael Bogar 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – “The Gospel of Judas” **and;** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 6-8<sup>th</sup>:** Co-Ed Retreat at Menucha

**Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>:** Pathfinders at 9:00 a.m. in the Bookstore **and:** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 17-20<sup>th</sup>:** Northwest Region Retreat at Fort Worden in WA

**Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>:** Movie “Conversations with God” at 7:00 p.m.

**Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>** Daylight Savings time end – Fall Back.

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

Many thanks to all of our wonderful Worship Service Team. It takes many people working together in commitment, joy and harmony to offer a seamless worship service.

This article is to thank all of you who work in the Multimedia booth, and Multimedia Director, **Paula Wills**; everyone who is an Usher/Greeter or Book Store Attendant, and Team Leader **Diana Moskal**; all of the creative people in the music department, and their Leader **Rebecca Shepard**; and, last but not least everyone who works in the Children’s Church, and their wonderful, creative director **Sharon Viehdorfer**.



Hats off to all of you who serve so brilliantly and with such commitment and devotion to bring a quality worship service to our congregation. We love you, We bless you, and We deeply appreciate you!

## September Church Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>Sunday Service:</b> 10:30 a.m. – Youth Education is available.					1.	2.
<b>3.</b> 9:00 am: Pathfinders 6:30 pm: Noetic Science	4.	<b>5.</b> 7:00 pm: Class – "I of the Storm" begins	<b>6.</b> 7:00 pm – Taize Healing Prayer Service	<b>7.</b> Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	<b>8.</b> 7:00 pm: Movie " The Secret"	9.
10.	11.	12.	13.	<b>14.</b> Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch <b>World Day of            Prayer – Service at            7:00 pm</b>	15.	16.
<b>17.</b> 9:00 am: Pathfinders 1:00 pm: Lisa Lee in Concert 6:30 pm: Noetic Science	18.	19.	20.	<b>21.</b> Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	22.	23.
24.	<b>25.</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm: Board Meeting	26.	27.	<b>28.</b> Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	29.	30.

## October Church Calendar

<b>1.</b> 9:00 am: Pathfinders 1:00 – 4:00 pm: Michael Bogar "The Gospel of Judas" 6:30 pm: Noetic Science	<b>2.</b>	<b>3.</b>	<b>4.</b>	<b>5.</b> Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	<b>6.</b> Co-ed Retreat at Menucha	<b>7.</b> Co-ed Retreat at Menucha
<b>8.</b> Co-ed Retreat at Menucha	<b>9.</b>	<b>10.</b>	<b>11.</b>	<b>12.</b> Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	<b>13.</b>	<b>14.</b>
<b>15.</b> 9:00 am: Pathfinders 6:30 pm: Noetic Science	<b>16.</b>	<b>17.</b>	<b>18.</b>	<b>19.</b> Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	<b>20.</b> 7:00 pm: Movie – "Conversations with God"	<b>21.</b> 7:00 pm: Movie – "Conversations with God"
<b>22.</b>	<b>23.</b>	<b>24.</b>	<b>25.</b>	<b>26.</b> Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	<b>27.</b>	<b>28.</b>
<b>29.</b> <b>Daylight Savings time end – Fall Back.</b>	<b>30.</b> 7:00 pm: Board Meeting	<b>31.</b>	<a href="http://www.unityofsalem.com">www.unityofsalem.com</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:unityonthehill@aol.com">unityonthehill@aol.com</a> Office phone: 503-364-0156			

## October Church Calendar

Unity of Salem  
PO Box 3518  
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