



HORIZONS

The Newsletter of Unity of the Valley

March 2008

Emergence

I feel we are continuing to gather together our community. This may take months, or even years. The size, make-up, and dimensions of our gathering community are yet to be determined. Let me say that I anticipate an emergence of a new identity for our spiritual community. Unity of the Valley as it has been will eventually cease to exist. As we move through the experience of integrating the past and become present to what is naturally emerging from our collective heart space, we will begin to recognize ourselves in a new light.

This emergence over time will be supported by conscious steps we take. I am very enthusiastic about the changing face of our staff. Linda Hunt remains to serve you as our Administrator, Bookstore Manager, and Volunteer Coordinator.

And as was announced at our annual meeting, beginning in March, Rev. Sherry Lady will be serving on a part-time basis as our new Associate Minister (see enclosed article). Also beginning in March, Jon West will be moving into the newly created position of Director of Outreach & Programs as well as remaining as our Music Director (see enclosed article).

Parallel to these exciting changes, Sally Crum, our Director of Youth & Family Ministry, is taking a six-month leave of absence beginning in early to mid-April (see enclosed article). I am so grateful for Sally's presence in our community!

Speaking of emergence, if you are on our e-mail list, you are receiving e-mail updates from me on a regular basis. It's our way of keeping communication current and energized as we emerge into paperless ways of being in touch. If you have an e-mail address and are not receiving these updates, please call our office with your e-mail address. Also, stay tuned for a new addition to our Web site entitled *Confessions of a Heretic*, which will be various spiritual musings of mine that you can go online and read.

A new community ritual will be experienced during our Easter services on March 23. Come and join with us as we emerge from winter into spring and into our transformed identity as a thriving spiritual community.

Peace be with you,



EASTER EVENTS

Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, March 16
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Communion/Handwashing

Thursday, March 20
7:00 PM

Good Friday Service

Friday, March 21
5:30 PM

Easter Services

Sunday, March 23
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt (ages 3-11)

Sunday, March 23
12:30 PM (at Tugman Park)

Upcoming Guest Speakers

Sunday, March 30 Rev. Sherry Lady

Sunday, April 6 Rev. Inge Tarantola

Unity of the Valley Staff Changes

Sunday Worship Services

Services held at
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Nursery & Childcare
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Youth & Family Ministry

Preschoolers
(ages 3-4)
11:00 AM

Unikids
(K-3rd Grades)
11:00 AM

Galileans
(4th-5th Grades)
11:00 AM

Uniteens
(6th-8th Grades)
11:00 AM

Youth of Unity
(9th-12th Grades)
11:00 AM

Office Hours

Tuesday Friday
10:00 AM 4:00 PM

Bookstore Hours

Tuesday Friday
10:00 AM 4:00 PM

Contact us

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Unity of the Valley is delighted to welcome back **Rev. Sherry Lady** as an Associate Minister, beginning March 1.

Sherry is an ordained Unity minister who formerly served as Unity of the Valley's Youth Education Minister for seven years and as Senior Minister at Unity in Ashland, Oregon, for seven years. Sherry will serve our church in pastoral care and will be available for spiritual counseling in addition to continuing to coordinate our Odyssey of the Spirit adult education program. Her work with the Lane Interfaith Alliance also will continue.



We are very pleased to share that **Jon West** will be on our staff in an expanded role. Jon not only will continue as our permanent Music Director, but he also will be starting in March on a part-time basis as our new Director of Outreach & Programs. It is expected that his dedicated

time to this work will grow over the next 4 to 6 months. Jon will be building relationships with various leaders in the faith, educational, and non-profit communities in order that Unity of the Valley may become more visible, involved, and on the leading edge of spiritual education and innovation in Eugene and Oregon. Jon welcomes your hugs of support.



Sally Crum, our Director of Youth & Family Ministry, is taking a six-month leave of absence beginning early to mid-April. During

her time away for reflection and rejuvenation, we are exploring several exciting options for how to continue to create the best possible spiritual education programs for all of our young people, including having a healthy Youth of Unity (Y.O.U.) for high-schoolers. Take time out in these next several weeks to acknowledge Sally and thank her for her service to our children and families. Help send her off with love and blessing. We do love you, Sally!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our 2008 congregational meeting was held Sunday, February 24. **Michael Augden** and **Leslie Maguire** were elected to serve on our Board of Directors for three-year terms. **Alison Cantril** and **Jean Hanna** were elected as alternate directors and will serve one-year terms. It was announced that **Kathy Miller-Hoyt** was selected by the board at their February monthly meeting to complete the final year of Peg Allison's three-year term.

Rick Saries was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2009. **John Freshwater** was elected

as alternate on the 2009 Nominating Committee.

Unity of the Valley extends its heartfelt appreciation to retiring board members **Peg Allison**, **Chuck Arrera**, **Michael Reddy**, and **Sara Holland**.

We appreciate everyone who attended and participated in the congregational meeting and helped to consciously set the intent for an abundant 2008. We value our wonderful Board of Directors for their generous service to our spiritual community!

Become a Member of Unity of the Valley

Unity Way of Life Classes
(formerly Foundations of Unity)
Thursdays, April 3 – May 1
7:00 to 9:00 pm

All are welcome to attend our upcoming Unity Way of Life classes, held in the Sanctuary for five consecutive Thursdays. It is certain to be an adventure as we explore together the foundational teachings of Unity:

There is only one Presence and one Power: God, the absolute Good.

All human beings have a spark of divinity – the Christ consciousness within them.

What we think, feel, and believe creates our experience of our world.

Affirmative prayer and meditation heighten our connection with God.

We must live the Truth that we know in order to demonstrate goodness in our lives.

This class is recommended but not required for those wanting to become new members, as well as for anyone wanting to energize their spiritual life. Study guides will be provided.

Please sign up at the Information Desk on Sundays, or call the church office (345-9913). *Childcare will be provided.* See you there!

New Member Orientations
Two Thursdays, May 8 & 15
7:00 to 9:15 pm

or
Saturday, May 10
9:30 am to 2:30 pm

New Members will be welcomed into our church at a special New Member Celebration during the 11:00 am service on Sunday, May 18.

Membership in Unity is unique. The most important requirement is for each member to become aware of his or her oneness with God and to become open, receptive, and responsive to the indwelling, living Spirit of Truth. Unity is more than a system of worship – it is a way of life. We encourage attendance at our Unity Way of Life classes prior to membership to help those interested in this way of life become familiar with Unity principles and opportunities to learn and pray together.

If you choose not to take the Unity Way of Life classes, you are required to attend both Thursday evening sessions *or* the morning and afternoon Saturday session. If you have completed the Unity Way of Life classes, you are required to attend *either* the second Thursday evening *or* the Saturday afternoon session of the Orientation.

During Saturday's all-day session, lunch will be provided from 12:00 to 12:45 pm.

Required for those who have not attended "Unity Way of Life"

Thursday, May 8 7:00 to 9:15 pm
or Saturday, May 10 9:30 am to noon

Introduction to Unity History & Principles
Practical Application of Unity Principles

Required for all New Members

Thursday, May 15 7:00 to 9:15 pm
or Saturday, May 10 12:45 to 2:30 pm

Continue discussion of Unity Principles
Mission, Vision, Ministries, Leadership, and History of Unity of the Valley

Please sign up in advance beginning Sunday, April 13, or call the church office (345-9913). *Childcare will be provided.*

Odyssey of the Spirit: Transformational Adult Education

Prayer Works Wonders

Monday, April 7
6:00 to 9:00 pm

This class will help you develop a daily spiritual practice or enhance the one you already have.

This is a required class for anyone who wants to participate in our Prayer Ministry or who is interested in becoming a Prayer Chaplain.

The class is led by MaryEllen Avis and Linda Hunt. For more information, please call Linda at 345-9913.



Unity of the Valley offers *Odyssey of the Spirit*, a transformational, ongoing adult education and enrichment program.

The program offers classes, workshops, guest speakers, two- to three-day intensives, and independent study guided by members of our in-house teaching staff and instructors from our community.

Odyssey of the Spirit provides a holistic approach to self-discovery and transformation. Its purpose is to encourage the unfoldment of the individual through the development of spirit, mind, and body. We will offer teachings that enable persons to realize their oneness with God and life, and principles that will empower each individual to live a more joyous and successful life.

Participation in classes and activities may be solely for one's own experience and enrichment or taken for credit by those who are:

in the process of accumulating, or wishing to accumulate, required hours for completion of Unity's Personal Growth Diploma Program;

already enrolled, or planning to enter, the Licensed Unity Teacher Program;

considering application to the Ministerial Education Program.

More information about *Odyssey of the Spirit* upcoming offerings can be found in the basic program brochure and handouts, available at the church Information Desk; in your Sunday bulletin; and on our Web site: www.unityofthevalley.org

For detailed information, please contact the Rev. Sherry Lady at 345-9913 (church) or 485-6874 (office), or e-mail her at sherrylady@comcast.net.

Faculty and instructors include:

MaryEllen Avis	Linda Hunt
Tom Blank	Sherry Lady
Ed Conrad	Leslie Maguire
Laurie Cracraft	Barry Nobel
Mary Griggs	Inge Tarantola

Unity of the Valleys Education Ministry encompasses all ages, infant through adult. It supports and encourages not only personal growth and transformation, but the continued unfoldment of our understanding of the value of cultural and spiritual diversity as expressed throughout our world.

We look forward to your participation!

Intelligent Prayer

Saturday, April 26
1:00 to 4:00 pm

Intelligence is the essence of true, effective prayer. It is choosing to entertain that quality of thought that is creative, loving, powerful, and true. When intelligent prayer's laws of life are understood and obeyed, they invariably bring about marvelous effects that bless you and the world.

The laws of intelligent prayer will be explained and demonstrated in this workshop that will address the needs of those who attend it. Led by Edgar Peera.

Odyssey of the Spirit: Transformational Adult Education

Interpreting the Bible

Facilitated by Rev. MaryEllen Avis

Thursdays, March 27 to April 24

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Upstairs Fillmore Wing

Together, we will take a brief metaphysical journey through stories of the Bible, from the prophets and giants like David and Solomon to Jesus parables and the Book of Revelation. Unity's stress upon practical Christianity will shine through as we discuss how these stories relate to our own time and how we can use them to enhance our experience of life. SEE credit is available.

Interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures

Facilitated by Rev. Sherry Lady

Thursdays, May 1-29

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Upstairs Fillmore Wing

The Jewish tradition, with its heroisms and events, its laws, struggles, defeats, dreams, and yearnings, constitutes the actual experiences of the people spoken of in the Old Testament Hebrew scriptures. As we become acquainted through their

stories with the courage of their heroes, the inspiration of their poets, and their reasons for cherishing their tradition, we come to realize that their stories are our stories.

The tools of metaphysical interpretation will be used to explore these stories as we study together and experience not only enlightenment from our own process, but added wisdom and insight from various presenters from the Hebrew tradition in our local community. Love offering basis.

Required: *Holy Bible*

Suggested: *Tanach* (Hebrew Bible)

Adventures In Healthy Cooking

*A Vegan Cooking Class
presented by Lorrie Rather*

Tuesday, April 1

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Come and explore pure vegetarian cooking using quick, easy, delicious Ditch the Diet recipes with Lorrie and Pat Rather. This fun, informative class includes demonstrations, handouts, and ample samples. The class is limited to 20 students. Call 344-5198 to sign up!

Unity Prayer Chaplain Update

We are making changes to Unity of the Valleys Prayer Chaplain Ministry schedule. We will begin inviting in new Prayer Chaplains in August 2008, with Chaplain Orientations for anyone interested in knowing more about the program. We then will schedule interviews and training sessions in September and October. New Prayer Chaplains will begin their service commitment November 1.

If you are interested in becoming a Prayer Chaplain, now is the time to think about completing the basic requirements:

- membership in Unity of the Valley;
- the Unity Way of Life class (formerly Foundations of Unity);
- the Prayer Works Wonders class, offered in April and October of each year.

Upcoming Events at Unity of the Valley

Margaret Starbird presents a lecture and workshop on

Mary Magdalene: Bride and Beloved

The Greatest Story Never Told

Friday, April 4

Lecture: 7:00 pm

Suggested Donation: \$20

The Goddess, the Grail,
and the Gospel

Saturday, April 5

Workshop: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Suggested Donation: \$40



Margaret Starbird is the widely-acclaimed author of several books that seek to restore Mary Magdalene to a position of honor denied her for 2,000 years by the entrenched hierarchy of the patriarchal system.

What if the earliest Christian heresy was the denial of the Bride?

Was Mary Magdalene the wife and beloved of Jesus? What became of her after the Crucifixion? Why was her story suppressed by the Church Fathers, and why must we now retrieve it?

We will explore the Sacred Union at the very heart of the Christian doctrine and celebrate the Bride.

Youth & Family Ministry Updates

Unity Mission and Values

We are a thriving spiritual community radiating God's love. We come together to grow in our experience and expression of God.

We value:

- Love
- Integrity
- Beauty
- Inclusion
- Community
- Fun
- Peace
- Worship
- Learning
- Prayer
- Commitment
- Prosperity
- Healing
- Gratitude
- Service
- Joy

and the Sacredness of all life.

In the preschool and primary classes, we have been learning about the Parables of Jesus.

To do this, we use story, song, affirmations, and puppets. We are learning the third Unity principle: I create my experience by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe.

On the first Sunday of every month, we go up on the platform in the Sanctuary and sing our favorite song for the month. This month (as appropriate to our theme), we sang and arranged the words I AM WHAT I THINK I AM. We love how the congregation joins in so enthusiastically!

Our Galileans worked several weeks making valentines so they could take roses and cards to the residents of Good Samaritan Clinic on Hilyard St. This is a ten-year tradition, one that D. J., who is now 19, has never forgotten. D. J. recalls the day when he went to Good Sam, and one of the residents who received a rose said, "It's been such a long time since a young man gave me a rose!"

The Uniteens and Youth of Unity (Y.O.U.) have been meeting together until we find new Y.O.U. leaders. One of our students has become passionate about helping to free young girls who have been sold into sexual slavery. We currently are researching this project and how we can contribute (more to come).

Are there any Y.O.U. sponsor possibilities out there? We have a small but wonderful group, with unlimited possibilities.

Three of our youth leaders attended the Northwest Regional Unity Conference in February. This is one of the greatest benefits of working with youth. We traveled to Goldbar, Washington, to meet with other awesome youth leaders, get ideas, sing our hearts out, be silly (but profound) in our skits, and just be generally inspired. What a great experience for all of us. Join us next year!

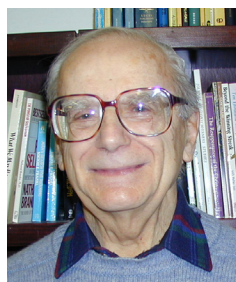
The Enrichment Corner by the Rev. Edgar Peara

Have you felt your prayers and creative metaphysical efforts would be more effective if you were more spiritual? At times, do you feel out of contact with the Creator, unable to manifest the blessings that will meet your needs?

Good news: You don't have to make a big change to have the fulfillment you desire. What you need is a correct awareness of who you are already.

Among life's numberless forms, only humans can entertain concepts—basic, inclusive ideas. You can consider the concept of love, imagine integrity, have thoughts of peace, and think the idea of abundance.

One vital concept is the realization of life, that invisible, palpable essence that animates your body. You not only can think the concept life, you also can be aware that you have life, you are alive. If you have life, you potentially also have what life includes: energy, health, creativity, abundance, well-being, joy.



Thus you don't have to be different to have your God-intended rich existence. You need to (1) be aware that you can choose what you wish to think, and (2) choose to think of yourself as being life, actually alive, as well as open to the abundant goodness of life and what it includes as the gift of your benevolent Creator that wants you to have all the wonders of life heaped up, shaken together, and running over.

Think, then, The wonder of life is in me now. I am tangibly aware that life is my essential selfhood. Its source and nature bears out its Creator. I am open to, identify with, and receptively accept all the gracious wonders that are in life—love, intelligence, health, creative power, abundance.

Unity's third Basic Belief is What we think, feel, and believe creates our experience of this world.

The Rev. Edgar Peara is a retired New Thought minister who continues to provide therapy as a spiritual practitioner.

NEW "SIMPLE GIVING" OPTION

If you would like to intentionally give to Unity of the Valley on a monthly basis, we make it easy! Just pick up an FAQ and application form at the reception desk, fill it out, and send or turn it in along with your voided check (for automatic fund transfer from your bank account). You also may sign up on www.unityofthevalley.org or call the church office (345-9913) with your VISA, MC, or debit card information.

The offering amounts can be changed or stopped at any time, with a simple phone call. At the end of each year, a total of your donations will be sent to you for your tax records.

Support our church with eScrip

Register your grocery club, debit, or credit card online or with a simple mail-in form (available at the Information Desk) for automatic giving every time you shop. Merchants donate up to 8% of sales to the designated non-profit. Local eScrip merchants include Safeway, Market of Choice, OfficeMax, and Macys. Go to eScrip.com and follow the easy instructions.

Albertsons has its own cash-back program for shoppers who register with them.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Divine love, through us, blesses and multiplies all that we have, all that we give, and all that we receive!

	(+) Income	() Tithes	() Expenses	Net Gain/Loss
November	\$67,380	-2,477	-27,549	37,354
December	35,719	-4,371	-25,836	5,512
January	18,654	-500	-19,810	(1,656)
TOTALS	\$121,753	-7,348	-73,195	41,210

