



HORIZONS

The Newsletter of Unity of the Valley

September 2007

Dear Beloved Friend,

Its true: Every soul, every community, and all living things on our planet experience the changing of seasons. Life takes on new colors and sounds and a transformation of purpose. I feel as if I m stepping into this spiritual community at a seasonal turning point.

Many thanks to those of you who have carried on throughout this slowly changing season. To those who didnt carry on and decided to step away from Unity of the Valley, I include you as well in my thoughts and appreciations. Thanks also to my colleague Polly Dozier and her valuable seven-month stay here.

Fall approaches, bringing harvest time and a gradual stripping away of remaining excess as life prepares us for the winter of knowing that the basic, bare essentials are enough. Last September,

Horizons carried these words from your leadership:

We want to create an environment where everyone can find his or her way home . We know that the underlying value for all of us is that we love Unity of the Valley . Our goal is that once again we can all come together in celebration and joy.

This speaks to the predominance of my experience here thus far. I have felt a profound



Rev. Ed Conrad

outpouring of love for Unity of the Valley coming from so many of you, and even from individuals in Eugene who dont attend here. This leads to another thought I want to share.

During this fall and winter, I see a gradual transformation taking place as the essentials of a loving and vital spiritual community are emphasized and nurtured. With our collective intention revolving around the well-being of each child, teen, and adult at Unity of the Valley, I will do my utmost to embody this intention by being a healing, unifying, and accessible presence.

There is an enormous wellspring of love, wisdom, and power here. As this seasonal change in the life of Unity of the Valley comes naturally to a close in these upcoming months and a new season emerges, I m certain we will begin to awaken to a new vision for this beloved community of souls. While we attend to the present moment and bring love to bear wherever needed, may we also be open to the deeper wisdom and Divine Benevolence that will assist us in giving birth to an even greater good.

It is my joy to be with you!

Ed



We return to two Services beginning September 23

Worship Services will be held at
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

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Upcoming Events at Unity of the Valley

Sunday Worship Services

(beginning Sept. 23)

Services held at
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Nursery provided
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Childcare
11:00 AM

Youth Education
(3-10 years)
11:00 AM

Uniteens
(11-13 years)
11:00 AM

Youth of Unity
(14-18 years)
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

Unity of the Valley
345-9913

Unity Bookstore
343-5689

Unity Fax
345-9182

Dial-a-Positive-Prayer
345-5215

Chaplain Line
341-1841

E-mail
unityval@rio.com

Web Site
unityofthevalley.org

Coming Together Sunday September 16 10:00 am

On Sunday, September 16, we will experience our first annual Coming Together Sunday! All of us will join together for this one service: children, teens, parents, adults, and elders. We will celebrate each other and experience the vibrancy of our community.

A unique service is planned that will highlight our children, teens, and youth and family ministry volunteers, along with all other volunteers in all areas. This will be followed by our annual picnic. It is certain to be a memorable day for our church community!



AURORA is a longtime musical duo and workshop team who have their roots in the Twin Cities. Aurora is the goddess of the dawn, who inspires the birth of New Consciousness in every moment. One of the duo's fans wrote, "If the Northern Lights could sing, this is what they would sound like!" Scintillating harmonies, creative lyrics, and uplifting messages characterize their music, which has touched hearts in many Unity communities and elsewhere!

Katherine Conrad has just arrived to permanently reside in our beautiful Eugene, and Marie Garry will be joining her on September 30 from Iowa City, Iowa. Their longtime musical partnership has produced two CDs: *Mystery* and *Pagosa Rose*. Listen to and learn more about their music at www.aurorasong.com.

Unity's Annual Friendship Picnic (at Tugman Park)

Sunday, September 16
12:00 to 2:30 pm

Our annual Friendship Picnic is the perfect place to relax and connect with your Unity community. Join us for an afternoon of music, food, fellowship, and fun!

The Kutsinera Marimba Band will perform. Kids activities include face painting, games, and an appearance by Rainbow the Clown.

The church will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, ice cream, and lemonade. Plan to bring your family and friends and a side dish to share.

**AURORA comes to
Unity of the Valley
Sunday, September 30
9:00 & 11:00 am
Services**

Upcoming Events at Unity of the Valley



Barry Nobel Series

Sundays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, & 28
2:00 to 4:00 pm

Beyond Going Along to Get Along: An Introduction to Compassionate Conflict Resolution

Cost for Oct. 14-28: \$30

Do you have relationships at home, at work, or in the community that could be more wonderful? Do you hesitate to address difficulties for fear of making things worse? Are you sometimes irritated at a family member, friend, or co-worker, but find it hard to talk about it?

If so, Compassionate Conflict Resolution (CCR) just may be for you. Based on the work of world teachers Marshall Rosenberg (*Nonviolent Communication*) and Thich Nhat Hanh (*Mindfulness*), CCR helps us apply our highest spiritual values to our daily interpersonal relationships.

The October 7 session is a free experiential introduction to CCR. At the conclusion of that session, participants may sign up for a course held on the following three Sundays, to continue practicing CCR and reinforcing positive changes in their interpersonal communication and conflict resolution styles. The cost for the three-part course is \$30.

Barry Nobel, JD, PhD, mediates for Lane County and teaches conflict resolution at Portland State University and other venues.

Prayer Works Wonders

Monday, October 8
6:00 to 9:00 pm

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

This is a required class for anyone who wants to participate in the Chaplaincy or Prayer Ministries.

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

Unity of the Valley's Mission Statement

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

Dr. Saul Shaye Talk & Workshop
Sunday, Nov. 18
9:00 & 11:00 am

A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to Disprove God

1:30 to 4:30 pm

Workshop: A Healer's Odyssey
Suggested Love Offering \$20
(no one turned away)

We welcome Dr. Saul Shaye back to Unity of the Valley for the November 18 talk and afternoon workshop, *A Healer's Odyssey*. Dr. Shaye has lectured on healing, wellness, and dreams for thirty years. He has written articles on healing, health, and dreams and has been an avid sports participant in track, weight lifting, bodybuilding and karate. He is author of *He Who Walks on Two Worlds* and creator of the Dream Cards.

The workshop is an overview of holistic health. Dr. Shaye's emphasis is that 90% of your well-being is up to you. He explains and gives examples of how we can take charge of our lives physically, mentally, and spiritually, and how dreams can give you insight into each facet of your life. Dr. Shaye also will be available for private healing sessions.

For more information on Dr. Shaye's work, visit www.saulshaye.com.



Youth & Family Ministry Updates

Share Your Joy 2007

Our heartfelt thanks to all who participated in this summer's Share Your Joy! Our children and youth have been enriched by the sharing of yourself and what brings you joy.

Some examples of sharing this summer were learning the hula, swimming, singing and moving to music, yoga, illustrating a story, making a gratitude journal, constructing a talking stick, learning rhythm with drums and sticks, using watercolors, and photography techniques.

Thanks also to all of the older youth and adults who supported our young people. We are an awesome team doing the God thing, in the God place, at the God time. Thanks!

Parents of youth take note: Sunday, September 16, we have four special events happening:

A service for the whole family at 10:00 am.

Our Move-On (or Fly-Up) Ceremony.

Special childrens singing during the service.

The annual church picnic.

What a day to rejoice and be glad!

Sexuality and Our Faith: Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.)

We are almost ready to begin teaching our class on sexuality here at Unity of the Valley. We have worked since last April to prepare and are now in the final stages of signing up students. Some of our goals for this class are as follows:

Promote accurate information about and understanding of human sexuality.

Give young people the opportunity to consciously identify their own values.

Help youth learn decision-making and refusal skills.

Empower parents to have open communication with youth and connect with other parents.

Give youth a safe forum to ask any question about sexuality.

Encourage youth to have fun with other teens in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Do you know any teens who might benefit from this class? If you do, call Unity of the Valley (345-9913) and leave your name and number with Margo. We may still have space available.

Please support us with your prayers!

World Day of Prayer

Thursday,
September 13

September 13 is Unity's 14th annual World Day of Prayer. The Sanctuary and Peace Chapel will be available for prayer and meditation beginning at 10:00 AM. At 7:00 PM, Rev. Ed Conrad will lead a closing prayer circle.

Join us from 12:00 to 1:00 PM as we pray together in the Peace Chapel, or use the following information in your private prayer time.

*We are peacemakers,
one in the love of
God. With hearts
united, we establish
harmony and peace
in our lives and in the
world.*

Visit worlddayofprayer.org to download the 30 Days to Peace Calendar and a prayer tag, or to listen to a World Day of Prayer audio meditation.



Odyssey of the Spirit Classes

How to Let God Help You

Thursdays,
Sept. 13 Oct. 11
10:00 AM NOON

Foundations of Unity

Thursdays,
Sept. 13 Oct. 11
7:00 9:00 PM

Intelligent Processes That Are Life Fulfilling

Saturday, Sept. 15
1:30 4:00 PM

Beyond Going Along to Get Along

Sundays,
Oct. 7-28
2:00 4:00 PM

Prayer Works Wonders

Monday, Oct. 8
6:00 9:00 PM

Roots of Faith

Thursdays,
Oct. 18 Nov. 15
10:00 AM-NOON

Background of New Thought

Thursdays,
Oct. 18 Nov. 15
7:00 9:00 PM

The Trip to Bethlehem

Thursdays,
Nov. 29 Dec. 20
10:00 11:15 AM

Metaphysical Studies

Ongoing Tuesdays,
10:00 11:15 AM

New Testament Interpretation

Ongoing Wednesdays,
10:30 11:30 AM

Unity Offers *Odyssey of the Spirit*: Transformational Adult Education



Beginning September 13, Unity of the Valley will again offer *Odyssey of the Spirit*, a transformational, ongoing adult education and enrichment program.

The program will offer 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 Spiritual Development Program;

planning to enter the Licensed Unity Teacher Program;

considering application to the Ministerial Education Program.

More information about upcoming offerings can be found in the basic *Odyssey of the Spirit* brochure, available at the church information desk; the course description catalog; and your Sunday bulletin.

For detailed information, contact Rev. Sherry Lady at 485-6874 or at sherrylady@comcast.net.

Faculty and instructors include:

MaryEllen Avis	Sherry Lady
Tom Blank	Barry Noble
Ed Conrad	Edgar Peara
Mary Griggs	Judy Richardson
Linda Hunt	Inge Tarantola

Unity of the Valleys Education Ministry encompasses all ages: infants through adults. 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!

Become a Member of Unity of the Valley

Foundations of Unity Class

Thursdays, Sept. 13 Oct. 11

7:00 to 9:00 pm

All are welcome to attend our upcoming Foundations of Unity 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 will be the first opportunity for Unity of the Valleyans to experience Ed Conrad as teacher/facilitator. Foundations of Unity 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 in the Foyer or call the church office (345-9913). If you require childcare during the classes, please let us know by September 9. See you there!

The Mystical Nature of Chant

3rd Sunday of each Month

7:00 to 8:00 pm

Gather with others to sing sacred songs and chants from a variety of world traditions. The tones and the words reach deep into our collective consciousness. Call facilitator Nelli Garner (767-0953) for more information.

New Member Orientation

Saturday, October 13

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

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 Foundations of Unity class 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 Foundations class, you are required to attend the entire New Member Orientation class. The afternoon session of the Orientation is required for everyone desiring membership, even if you completed the Foundations class. Lunch will be provided.

9:30 pm to noon (required for all who have not attended Foundations of Unity)

Introduction to Unity History & Principles

Practical Application of Unity Principles

12:00 to 12:45 pm (for all)

New Member Luncheon

12:45 to 2:30 pm (required for all New Members)

Mission, Vision, Ministries, Leadership, and History of Unity of the Valley

Please sign up in advance beginning Sunday, September 9, or call the church office (345-9913). Let us know if you would like childcare.

The Enrichment Corner by the Rev. Edgar Pearsa

Knowing the nature of ultimate Reality would be more profitable and desirable than any knowledge you could ever acquire in life. When you know what's true, then you know what to do and be, which has the support of ultimacy itself.

Naturally then, your thoughts, words, and actions that are in harmony with and give expression to what is ultimately real and of highest importance give you security, make you feel rooted in life, and lead to the highest accomplishments.

King Solomon, wiser than anyone who had ever lived or ever will live, (I Kings 3:12) felt he owed his wisdom to his desire to entertain divine intelligence. And isn't that the same as entertaining the knowledge of what is fundamental authenticity?

As you look at life, don't you see that you are conditioned by your root essence to survive? The life force that wants you to live is of ultimate value for you, for without it you wouldn't exist, and nothing else would have meaning for you.

That which is of supreme importance is what helps you stay alive. The media is crowded with advice on what promotes survival: sensible eating,

exercise, avoiding smoking, etc. But what helps the most are consistent, focused efforts to grow in love. As the poet Browning said, Love is energy of life. For life, with all it yields of joy or woe and hope and fear, is just our chance of the prize of learning love how love might be, hath been indeed, and is.

That form of love is *agape* the unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of humanity, of others, of the individuals in your life. It is specific behaviors that you can choose: unselfishness, commitment, benevolence, concern, caring, kindness, compassion, mercy, sympathy, helpfulness, forgiveness, and patience. When you are expressing these behaviors, you are living what is highest and most important in life and enjoying the support of the greatest Power in existence.

Altruistic love is the highest, most valuable behavior you can express. Devoting yourself to intentional, systematic, industrious efforts to grow in that love is the happiest, most rewarding and joy-filled way to live, and the best evidence that your life is the most meaningful it can be.

2007 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	YTD Gain/Loss	Average Attendance
January	\$17,969	-1313	-22,955	(6,299)	170
February	18,685	-692	-19,069	(7,375)	156
March	18,999	-909	-18,557	(7,842)	132
April	27,908	-686	-22,478	(3,098)	147
May	18,705	-392	-18,631	(3,416)	183
June	18,551	-1,435	-23,299	(9,599)	151
July	18,188	-1,037	-19,875	(12,323)	149
TOTALS	\$139,005	-6,464	-144,864	(12,323)	155

More on our new Simple Giving Program coming soon!

God is lavish, unfailing Abundance, the rich omnipresent substance of the Universe. This all-providing Source of infinite prosperity is individualized as me the Reality of me.

The Abundance Book,
by J. R. Price

