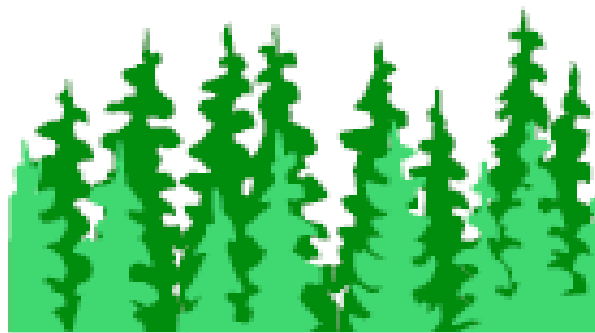


# Good News

from the  
**Northwest Region**  
of the Association of Unity Churches



Summer 2006

**T**his newsletter is published quarterly by the Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches.

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Lynnwood, WA 98036

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[www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org)

*The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of clear communication that helps unify the ministries of the Northwest Region.*

If you would like to submit something for the next issue, the due date for articles is October 1st. Email your article to me at: [debcris1952@webband.com](mailto:debcris1952@webband.com)

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## Heart Notes

From your Northwest Regional Chairperson  
**Barbara Wilson**

Wow! A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We had our regional conference in May. It was another rich get together at Menucha Conference Center. In June we hosted an international week-long conference cruise to Alaska. What a great way to show how blessed we are to live in the Pacific Northwest!

This year is my second go-round as chair of our regional board. Last year my learning curve seemed more like a steep incline! Now I am quite happy to be chair for another year for I feel a bit more relaxed, settled in and ready to ride.

Several other board members are continuing their officer positions:

Philip Zemke, vice chair;  
Roy Ayers, treasurer;  
Georgie Richardson, chaplain;  
and  
Steve Towles, regional representative.  
New members on the board this year are:  
David Elliott, secretary;  
Janet Rhodes, licensed teacher representative; and  
Scott McClintock, board member.

It's also a thrill to announce that Debbie Cristafir is our new newsletter editor. This newsletter is her maiden voyage. She has great ideas on ways to enhance our publication.

Also, in our search for someone to further develop our website, we discovered Ted Clark of Coraxis. He has offered to make our site more dynamic in the way it conveys information and how it responds to our different needs. Our regional website will be *the* website to see.

We have a new regional conference coordinator, Patty Williams! Patty has extensive experience in this area. I am sure Patty will welcome any ideas you may have. At this time, our regional conference is scheduled for May again at Menucha.

Other important business: We granted Unity in Livingston, Montana, our expansion grant for this year. Our support last year was a tremendous help to establish a strong Unity presence there. Besides our financial gifts, may we also support Unity in Livingston, and their minister, Rev. Alvena Hiatt, with our prayers.

*continued on page 2: Heartnotes*

## Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches Regional Team Members

### Barbara Wilson, Chairperson

Unity in the Olympics,  
Port Angeles, WA  
(360) 457-3981  
bwilson@olympen.com

### Philip Zemke, Vice-Chairperson

Unity Church of Bozeman, MT  
(406) 254-9554  
unity@tgrsolution.net

### Roy Ayers, Treasurer

Unity Church of Today, Mount Vernon, WA  
(360) 419-7409  
UNITYOFTODAYMV@aol.com

### David Elliot, Secretary

Unity of Tacoma, WA  
(253) 383-2684  
david.rev4unity@gmail.com

### Georgie Richardson, Chaplain

Unity of Salem, Salem, OR  
(503) 364-0156  
blessyourheart44@aol.com

### Steve Towles, Regional Representative

Unity Church of Christianity, Edgewood, WA  
(253) 446-1000  
(206) 229-7496 cell  
stephentowles@comcast.net

### Janet Rhodes, LUT Regional Representative

(360) 956-3715  
jjrhodes@thurston.com

### Scott McClintock, Board Member

Unity of Anchorage, AK  
(907) 346-2824  
revscott@gci.net

*continued from page 1:Heartnotes*

A reminder that Steve Towles has two scholarships left for the Peace-making Skills Institute, August 28—September 1. They are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scott McClintock is heading up a task team on by-laws. Scott has so much experience from his work in the Great Lakes region and on the national team. Praise God! We are blessed!

Increasingly I appreciate how life unfolds through questions. One of the questions that came up at regional conference was how best to support transitional ministry specialists who provide an important, essential service to our ministries. There was significant interest so a task team was formed and is already at work.

A complete list of task teams and their members can be found below. If you would like to serve your region through a task team, contact a member of that task team or me.

Abundant Blessings,  
Barbara Wilson

## Regional Task Teams

By Laws Team: This team reviews and recommends changes to our by laws. Member is Scott McClintock.

Conference Team: This team plans and coordinates our annual Regional Conference. Patty Williams, coordinator

Earth Care Task Team: This team promotes and cultivates an earth care consciousness within the Unity movement. Kathy O'Connor, coordinator

Fall Training Team: This team plans and coordinates our fall leadership training. For this fall, Gary Simmons will present his Integral Leadership workshop, Sept. 22 & 23. Members are Steve Towles, Judy Willingham and Leila Zemke.

Family Retreat Team: This team plans and coordinates our annual summer retreat at Ft. Worden. Marilyn Muehlbach, coordinator

Prosperity Task Team: This team promotes and is dedicated to cultivating and developing the region's prosperity consciousness. Current members are Georgie Richardson, Roy Ayers, Teri Hawkins, Dick Everts and Alvena Hiatt.

Transitional Ministry Team: This team supports the transitional ministry program. Current members are Marylou Palmer, Teri Hawkins, Steve Towles and Anna Joy Grace.

Website Team: This team works with web master, keeps website updated and coordinates with Regional Board. Current members are Judy Willingham, Steve Towles, Kathy O'Connor and Nick Muncie-Jarvis.

Prayerfully consider if any of the above teams may be an avenue of service for you.

**NEWS FLASH!**  
**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION**  
**HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL**  
**JULY 15.**

Register now at the early-bird rate.

The Northwest Region Unity Retreat, AWAKENING TO THE POWER WITHIN, is coming up soon - August 17-20. Gregg Braden is our featured speaker. Gregg will lead us on a journey bridging ancient wisdom, spirituality, modern science and the empowering role they offer in our lives today. Also presenting will be Rev. John McLean as our Thursday night Key Note Speaker, Rev. Baine Palmer as our Master of Ceremonies, and an exciting group of Workshop Leaders: Rev. Roy Ayers (Let It Be), Rev. Billie Blain (The Inner Technology of Prayer), Rev. David Evans (Closer to Christ), Russell Kiernan DeVerniero (The Healing Drum), Rev. Julie Montague (Creating Ritual to Enhance Your Life), Rev. Mary Lou Palmer (NonViolent Communication), Rev. Steve Towles (Celebrating What's Good in Our Lives), and The Earth Care Ministries Team (The Path to Earth Care).

**Special Announcement**  
**Talent Showcase**

*An Opportunity To Share Your Talent  
 To See and Be Seen*

Following Gregg Braden's talk on Friday evening there will be a Talent Show which will run for about 90 minutes. We want to offer this opportunity to as many people as possible. Here is the information about the format:

- We love songs, skits, stories, poems, etc.
- Up to three minutes for each performance.
- Bring your own props, costumes, audio tapes or CDs.
- There will be NO time for rehearsal and/or mike checks.
- Because there is a limited time for stage changes, please keep props to a minimum.
- Since there is limit on the number of performances, it is first come, first in the show.

*The Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches Presents*

## Awaken to the Power Within

Bringing Together Ancient Wisdom and Modern Science  
 to Enhance Our Expression of the Sacred

**The synergy of like-minded, enthusiastic people sharing a spiritual journey is powerful. Some even call it miraculous!**

Soak in all we have to offer and experience a crash course in awakening. This year the Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches is offering you, your family and friends an enriching vacation experience at a new location: the historic Ft. Worden State Park Conference Center. The sparkling waters of the Pacific Ocean surrounded by the majestic Olympic Mountains, Mt. Baker and the Cascade Mountains make this a spectacular setting. The beach, hills, trails and open spaces provide plenty of room for group activities as well as solitude and reflection. Join this joy-filled community of spiritual seekers for spiritual rejuvenation and deepening awareness. Open your mind and heart as we sing, dance, and play together. Awaken to the power of the living Spirit of God in you.

Gregg Braden, author, scientist and researcher of ancient wisdom will share his discoveries and lead us through techniques to plumb our own spiritual depths. In addition, Unity Ministers, including Rev. Roy Ayers, Rev. Julie Montague, Rev. Mary Lou Palmer, Rev. Steve Towles and Rev. Philip Zemke and the Earth Care Team will present a variety of dynamic experiential workshops and inspirational teachings. Some of these workshops can be taken for credit (SEE credit or Continuing Education Credit for Ministers and Licensed Teachers).

A comprehensive program for our youth offering creative, fun activities for both children and teens is being planned.

There will be time for us to explore, to learn, to grow, and to celebrate as individuals and as a family throughout the retreat.

This extraordinary event is also a fundraiser for the NW Unity Region that supports the many innovative projects of our ministry. Thank you for your contribution.

*Plan to spend four wonderful days at the ocean this summer. Gather your friends and family for simple times, eternal truth, and the strength that comes from being part of a spiritual community.*

Ft. Worden State Park Conference Center • Port Townsend, Washington  
 August 17-20, 2006

Sign-up began July 1st. Send your request for a place on the program to:

Shirley Starr  
[starr2accounting@msn.com](mailto:starr2accounting@msn.com)  
 or to: PMB 335  
 15600 NE 8th Street, Suite B-1  
 Bellevue, WA 98008

Or sign up at the retreat in the Book Store on Thursday.



## Integral Leadership

By Rev. Stephen Towles,  
Regional Representative

We have an important upcoming event sponsored by your Region for you, your board members and key leadership in your church. We are hosting Rev. Gary Simmons, Director of the Ministry of Peacemaking for our International Association of Unity Churches to present his popular and powerful *Integral Leadership and Church Growth* workshop on Friday September 22 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. and Saturday September 23 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Unity in Edgewood.

This Region is committed to supporting the idea of healthy and thriving ministries and working together in leadership to bring that forth in our churches. One of the challenges that I often face in my church is bringing some of the divine ideas I receive at conferences and other workshops back to my board and leadership team and engendering the same enthusiasm I have for these new and exciting ideas. This seminar allows you to involve key leaders and have them feel the same enthusiasm and commitment that you do in creating a healthy and growing ministry. For this reason alone it is well worth the effort and expense to attend. Upon reading the flyer for this event you will see that the subjects covered are directly applicable to fulfilling our dream of healthy, growing and prosperous ministries serving more and more people in our Region and beyond. I would encourage you to make every effort to attend and to involve as many of your leadership team as possible. Imagine heading to the fall with the kind of enthusiasm that infects your church with positive possibilities and opportunities.

A mailing was sent to all ministers and board members in our Region regarding this event. It includes a registration form, a flyer and a let-

*continued on page 8: Leadership*

## Integral Leadership

### Integral Leadership and Church Growth

*An Integral Approach to Healthy Church Growth and Development*

A two day seminar led by Rev. Gary Simmons

Sponsored by Northwest Region of the  
Association of Unity Churches

Held at Unity Church in Edgewood, WA

Friday September 22 at 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Continuing Saturday September 23, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*Recommended \$40  
Love Offering for  
each person attending  
Includes Saturday  
Lunch*

### For Ministers, Board Members and Key Leaders

This seminar elevates the principles of leadership and growth to reveal a new approach to creating strategies for healthy ministry development. What if effective leadership is really about modeling a way of relating to life's opportuni-

ties and challenges that people become so inspired as to want to take up meaningful roles in the life of the church? And, what if growing a church was not about increasing numbers or raising money, but about growing energy, raising consciousness, and about creating value in membership?

These shifts in our traditional concepts of church leadership and growth make healthy and energetic ministry possible. The seminar looks directly at the field influences that qualify our efforts to move the ministry forward and examines effective strategies for moving the church from a pastoral to a program size ministry and beyond.

Topics include:

- The psychology of underlying ministry as relating to church size and type
- The Relational, Organization, Communal, Cultural, and Spiritual Fields
- Systemic problems associated with moving from pastoral to program ministry
- Strategies for overcoming the systemic issues
- The three congregations in every ministry and their unique attributes
- Spiral Dynamics and the Integral Map of Ministry
- How to create membership competence by creating value in membership

The program also builds leadership capacity and addresses ways to enhance the minister/board relationship.

## Regional Scholarships Available for Peaceworker Training

Gary Simmons is offering Peaceworker training from August 28 - September 1, 2006 at Unity Village. Your Northwest Region as a financial sponsor of the training acquired 6 scholarships of two are still available on a first come first serve basis to anyone who wishes to take the weeklong training. The value of the scholarship is \$250 and it does not include transportation, lodging or meals.

**The Association of Unity Churches Ministry for Peacemaking, Peace Worker Training Program consists of six training modules and internship.**

- Module A: PRINCIPLES OF PEACEMAKING
- Module B: CONGREGATION PEACEMAKING MODEL & PROCESS
- Module C: PEACE WORKER NETWORK
- Module D: JUDICATORY PROCEDURES
- Module E: MAKING PEACE WITH OUR PAST – A Congregational Healing and Reconciliation Process
- Module F: MEDIATION SKILLS

To find out more about the training go to [www.unitypeaceworks.com](http://www.unitypeaceworks.com). If you wish to have a scholarship contact Rev. Stephen Towles at (206) 229-7496 or e-mail him at [stephentowles@comcast.net](mailto:stephentowles@comcast.net).

## Prosperity Task Team

Rev. Georgie Richardson

Two years ago the Prosperity Task Team gave birth to a new idea which we called Keepers of the Light. The idea was to encourage Unity centers in our NW Region to invite a person in their congregation who is a tithing member of the church and has an active prayer life to be the one to hold the high watch for their church's prosperity; and, to also hold the high watch for the prosperity of the NW Region as a whole.

A year ago in October the Team put out the intention that the Keeper of the Light program expand beyond our Region. That intention has come to bear fruit in as much as there is now a Keeper in Nova Scotia, Titusville, Florida and a Keeper "team" in Fresno, California.

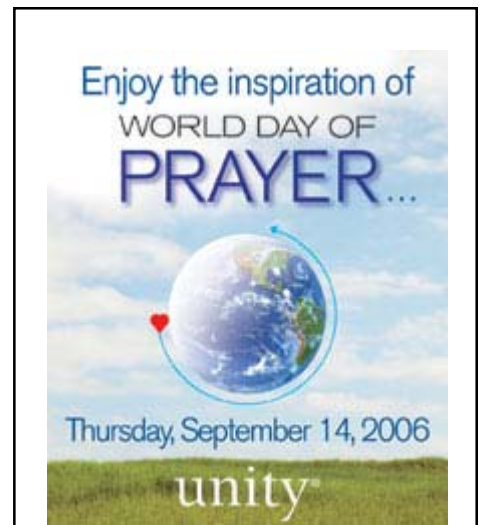
Our baby is now a toddler and growing at a steady healthy rate with our Keepers numbering over

70 and in every state in our Region except Alaska.

Therefore, during conference in May our team turned its attention to birthing a new baby.

Our new baby is entitled Prosperous Leadership of Ministry, and as the new baby develops and forms in the vision of "All Unity leaders are being prosperous in the leadership of ministry", our Team will be reaching out to the nearly twenty churches in our Region who are currently without a Spiritual Leader or Minister. It is the Team's intention to prayerfully support these ministries according to their needs, desires and wishes.

We are one Spiritual Family in Unity, and yet when a church is rather on its own, without a minister or Spiritual Leader to guide the board and congregation, a feeling of separation begins to grow, confusion about Spiritual Principles then



Wherever you are on this day, join in thought and prayer with this year's affirmation:

*United heart to heart in prayer,  
we create a world of radiant life,  
overflowing abundance, and  
lasting peace as we awaken to  
the power of God within.*

has an opportunity to sneak into the church's collective consciousness, and increases the sense of separation and soon the church feels as though it is all alone out there. Connecting to one another fosters the awareness and feeling of our Oneness. The Team's desire is to connect with these specific churches, let them know that we are there for them, and discover how we may serve them and assist them in the feeling of Oneness.

We are very pleased to have birthed this new baby. Rev. Roy Ayers is the Team Leader for this new project. Rev. Georgie Richardson is still looking after our toddler, Keepers of the Light. We accept and appreciate all your prayers as we nurture the growing family of Divine Ideas that Spirit is moving through our NW Region Prosperity Task Team.

# Licensed Unity Teacher News

By Janet Rhodes, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative

Hello! I am the new licensed teacher representative. Patty Williams from the Beaverton, Oregon, church is the new alternate representative. We both look forward to working with you as a team over the next three years. Read on to find out about the Regional Conference in May, the licensed teachers' meeting with James Trapp at conference, and happenings at the Association of Unity Churches International (the Association).

## June Convention

Because of my schedule, I was unable to go on the cruise to Alaska. I asked Patty Williams, the Alternate Representative to go in my place. Since she returned, Patty has told me what a great experience it was and how wonderful it was to meet LUTs from throughout the region.

## May Conference 2006

### Licensed Teacher Meeting

Judith Willingham the Licensed Teacher Representative, opened the meeting. Seven licensed teachers and one teacher-in-training attended our early morning meeting. The teacher in training, Bob Churilla, came from Cleveland to complete the requirement to attend a conference or convention.

We spent most of our time preparing for a meeting that Judy Willingham had scheduled for us with James Trapp, the new Chief Executive Officer for the Association. We decided we wanted to get acquainted with James and to discuss the role of licensed teachers in Unity and the Association's support of licensed teachers.

The group honored Judy Willingham for her many years of expert and dedicated service with a card and two gifts: a beautiful plaque and a handmade pot, potting soil, and plants (which we put together on the spot). Judy tells me that the pot sits on the porch and welcomes people to her home.

Finally, we voted for our new licensed teacher representative and alternate. Janet Rhodes is the representative and Patty Williams is the alternate. As a group we talked about how Janet and Patty can best help the teachers and teacher trainees of the region. The wide-ranging discussion brought up these ideas:

- Communication is very important. Keep the teachers/teacher trainees informed. Be a communication link. Make sure the teachers/teacher trainees know how Janet and Patty are available.
- Help teachers/trainees "hold the vision"
- When contacted, help open up the options available to the teachers/trainees

## Meeting with James Trapp at 2006 Conference

The licensed teachers and teacher trainee spent nearly an hour with James Trapp. James explained that this is the age of enlightened leadership. It is important to ask what is best for the organization, then work together to fulfill the goals. He believes in shared leadership, collaborative leadership. He explained that he wants the Association to have a "listening ear."

James said that licensed teachers are important in "holding the high watch." He had a good experience with licensed teachers in his ministry.

Someone asked for more information about the strategic goal of "expanding Unity." James said that it includes deepening the ministries and making healthy ministries, not just increasing the numbers of ministries. He said the bottom line for the Unity work is asking, "Do we have people changing for the better?" If the answer is 'yes,' then we are doing the needed work.

James asked us to send him a summary of the discussions. Please see the email I sent him, below. James' office sent the email on to the Minister/Licensed teacher team.

## Email to James Trapp

Dear James,

Thank you for meeting with the licensed teachers and licensed teacher trainee at the annual conference of the Northwest Region of the Association in May. We are glad to have had this time in conversation with you about licensed teachers, Unity, and the Association.

After the meeting, many of us mentioned how encouraged and hopeful we felt, especially that you showed us you were hearing what we said and were open to new possibilities for licensed teachers.

You asked if I would email you with some of the ideas that came out of the discussion. Here they are, in no particular order:

- Create better ways for licensed teachers and ministers to be in relationship
- Provide training for licensed teachers on how to support their ministry when it is in transition, including how to complement the transition or interim minister.
- Train trainers to take training into the churches (for helping the ministry through transition and for any other training)
- Create a new model of how to support licensed teachers and how the licensed teachers are integrated into the Association (e.g., increase "staff hours")
- Recognize that licensed teachers that plan to serve as licensed teachers in their ministries have different needs for support (and training) than the licensed teachers who are planning to go on to ministerial school.
- Put in place an automatic mechanism to tell licensed teacher trainees how to contact their regional licensed teacher representative (and to let them know that there is a licensed teacher representative who can support them). An alternative is to provide a mechanism to automatically provide to the licensed teacher representative the names and contact information of trainees as soon as they are accepted into the leadership program.

*continued on page 8: LUT*



## Unity Earth Care Ministry NW

*The Earth Care Team envisions all Unity ministries, collectively and individually, responsibly caring for God's Creation through cooperative prayer, thought, and action.*

### An Earth Care Prayer

Kahuna: Keeper of the Secret  
—S. D. Smith

Peace is in the sky  
Peace is on earth  
Peace is in the waters  
Peace is among the plants and trees  
of the forest  
The gods are peaceful.  
Peace is in the nature of Reality.  
All is peace.  
Peace alone is peace.  
May that peace, real peace, be with us all.  
Peace, peace, peace be unto us and unto all the  
beings of the Universe.

(From *Sunrise* magazine, February/March 1987;  
copyright © 1987 Theosophical University Press)

### Practical Earth Care – Prayer Ribbons

Unity Church of Bozeman celebrated Earth Day 2006 by cleaning out 100 feet of stream near their church property and flying prayer ribbons on the church grounds. Prayer flags or ribbons are traditional in both Native American and Tibetan cultures.

The prayer ribbons are made by tearing cotton fabric into strips 1.5 inches wide x 48 inches (the width of the fabric). Colors for each of the six directions are used: yellow - east, red - south, black - west, white - north,

blue - sky, and green - earth. During the service, the attributes of each direction is shared. Each person is asked to identify their prayerful intention, the color or direction they are drawn to, and an animal, plant, or place as their prayer partner. They are invited to take more than one ribbon—one for the church and others for their home. After the sharing of earth prayers, the ribbons are collected and tied to tree branches, where the wind carries the prayers for the next six months. At the end of that time, the ribbons are bundled and saved for a burning bowl service; at Bozeman Unity, burning bowl services are held at the New Year and Summer Solstice. For more information on the six directions and prayer ribbon ceremony, contact us at [unityearthcare@yahoo.com](mailto:unityearthcare@yahoo.com) for an activity sheet or call Philip Zemke, Unity Church of Bozeman, at (406) 587-5259.

### Travels of the Earth Care Banner

The Earth Care Banner is going to the 2006 Northwest Regional Unity Retreat on August 17-20, at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, WA. The Earth Care Team is hosting a Gathering of the Waters Ceremony at the opening session, and giving a Path Workshop for retreatants. Through inspirational meditations and affirmations, readings and discussion, workshop participants will explore the seven steps of the Path for consciously caring for our Mother Earth. They will also receive useful tools and resources. See you at Fort Worden!

### Fruits of Our Work—Earth Care Featured in *Unity Magazine*

Awareness of Unity Earth Care continues to grow. The May/June issue of *Unity Magazine* includes an article written by the Association of Unity Churches entitled "Caring for the Earth." The article describes the many ways churches in the Northwest Region are caring for Creation. The Association accessed our webpage on the Northwest Region's website to write the article, and also referred readers to the website. So the word is getting out—about Unity Earth Care, the Northwest Regional website, and the Unity Earth Care webpage. To view the page, look under Programs at [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org).

Contact us at [unityearthcare@yahoo.com](mailto:unityearthcare@yahoo.com) or at (360) 457-3981  
(c/o Barbara Wilson, Unity of the Olympics).

continued from page 6:LUT

As the new licensed teacher representative, I look forward to working more closely with the Association over the next three years.

One in Truth,

Janet Rhodes, licensed teacher representative, Northwest Region, Association of Unity Churches

## Responses to Email to James Trapp

I have had several emails regarding our email to James. One minister on the Minister/Licensed Teacher team was inspired to plan a meeting with the licensed teachers at that region's conference this fall.

## New Licensed Teachers in the Region

Our Region has two individuals who became licensed teachers in the past year: Maureen Kiefert, Pastoral Care, Olympia, WA; and John Butler, Spiritual Leader Corvallis, OR.

## News from the Association

The Association's licensed teacher coordinator, Dorothy Genske, will be retiring soon. I'm sure we will hear more from the Association about how and when her position will be filled.

Blessings to you all,  
Janet Rhodes

Contact info: [jjrhodes@thurston.com](mailto:jjrhodes@thurston.com) or 360-956-3715 (if the line is busy, keep trying. It will get better soon as we are getting broadband internet soon)

You can contact Patty Williams at:

(503) 520-0750 or at

[patty.williams@comcast.net](mailto:patty.williams@comcast.net)

## Do you have an email address?

If you have an email address and have not received several emails from me in the last month, then I don't have it. In a few cases, emails are coming back to me as undeliverable. I will be calling and/or writing people with the "undelivered" email to get some updates.

If you have an email address — and I don't have it — please send it to me. That way I can send you information more quickly, without waiting for the next newsletter.

## What's Ahead??

Have you entered these dates into your daytimer yet??? How about the master activities calendars in your churches???

### July

15 Early Bird Registration for the Annual Retreat ends

17 YOU International Conference Begins

### August

17-20 Annual Family Retreat at Ft. Worden

### September

14 13th Annual World Day of Prayer

22-23 Integral Leadership Workshop

### October

13-15 YOU Fall retreat

### November

10-12 Fall Unitreat Weekend

### February

Youth Ministry Leadership Training at Goldbar

## Happy Birthday Unity Church of Christianity in Billings, MT!

They have planned a big celebration for their 60th anniversary on Sunday, July 30th. Revs. Phillip Zemke and Alvena Hiatt will join Jeni St. Claire in the Sunday service and then on to the picnic in the park. All three churches (Billings, Bozeman & Livingston) as well as Butte were led by the same traveling Unity minister, Mary Wessell. She traveled 500 miles a week through Big Sky country and only missed one week in twenty-one years of service! She was ordained by Charles Fillmore in 1933.

## Your Youth Ministry Connections:

### Penny Gruver, Consultant/Children

2802 S. Laurel  
Port Angeles, WA 98362  
[gruverfamily67@msn.com](mailto:gruverfamily67@msn.com)  
(360) 452-7953

### Jackie Green Consultant/Teens

11115 E. 29th  
Spokane, WA 99206  
[jackienwyou@comcast.com](mailto:jackienwyou@comcast.com)  
(509) 928-0896

### Chris Castaldi Unitreat Event Coordinator

3114 Cottonwood Ct West  
Linn, OR 97068  
(503) 697-0762  
[castaldi11@comcast.net](mailto:castaldi11@comcast.net)

### Nick Muncie-Jarvis Next Generation Unity Consultant

9914 SW Conestoga #224  
Beaverton, OR 97008  
(503) 524-4030  
[ztx@juno.com](mailto:ztx@juno.com)

continued from page 4: Leadership

ter of explanation. Please complete registration form and return it to me, send me an e-mail or call to reserve your spot. As you can see on the flyer we ask for a suggested love-offering of \$40 per person which includes lunch on Saturday. Our intention as a Region is to break even on this event bringing it to you for the lowest cost possible. So talk to your board and key leadership and let me know of your intentions regarding this event. I look forward to seeing you soon, hopefully at our Northwest Retreat in August.

## Ministry and Miracles

by Debbie Cristafir

**I**t has been simply miraculous for me to know how doing the newsletter for the region has unfolded for me. Let me share my story....

I have been quite clear for a number of years that creating ministry is my calling...and I believe, I am really good at it. So, it was with great surprise and even greater pain that my guidance would be so clear to resign my position at Unity Church of Truth in Spokane. Two weeks later, in the early morning hours of October 28, 2005, I realized I was making the choice between life and death. But in a moment of very clear thought, I knew there was no choice. I would not leave my teenage daughter so early in her life to deal with the aftermath my death would leave for her. Within hours of that decision, I slipped into the state of unconsciousness caused by diabetic shock. At some point, I also had a stroke in my spinal column. I floated in that valley for several days that I now refer to as my *Golden Time* where I experienced the bliss of knowing Presence...and what it means to be part of *The One*. In the outer reality, the doctors were having a hard time getting me stabilized and my body was in considerable pain from the stroke. I believe my consciousness allowed me to stay in that place of pure joy longer than my family appreciated while the doctors figured it all out. I give thanks to the Revs. Thora and Weaver Hess. They visited me several times during my eleven days in ICU while I lingered in my *Golden Time* and helped me get grounded to come back. Believe me, it would have been easy to stay there for eternity, but I knew it was not meant to be.

When I finally woke up, I couldn't move from the shoulder blades down and my eye sight had been greatly impacted. I couldn't read or watch TV....which was really okay because

I couldn't stay awake. The doctors were not prone to giving me a whole lot of hope for recovery, but each time my response would be, "Watch me!" In retrospect, they felt unsure what my recovery would be because they were unable to get a clear definition of the damage done to my spinal column and had no way to know if it would be permanent. The people of the church were coming to feed me, I had a catheter and a morphine drip, and the nurses had to roll me over in bed every time I rang the bell. But I refused to be daunted by any of it, despite how it may have appeared.

My commitment to my faith became a huge advertisement for Unity. Psychologists and social workers were sent to help me with my depression. Imagine their surprise when they discovered I was not depressed...I did not feel like a victim...God had not done anything to me...I was just doing hospital in the present moment. I did hospital for a total of 49 days. I went home in a wheelchair although I had taken my first three tentative steps on Thanksgiving Day (which is also about the time my eyesight began to improve). A therapist came to my home three times a week from December 15<sup>th</sup> until March 15<sup>th</sup>. He taught me how to go up and down the stairs so that I could finally leave my house.

I still have a long road ahead. I have received so much support and insight that it is still hard for me to put all together...but how did I get from there to doing the regional newsletter? When I got very still and remembered that my purpose is about doing ministry, I realized it was my opportunity to recreate my life doing what I love. The question always is...how? *All I would have to do is follow my guidance and keep reminding myself that I would never be able to figure it out...just keep following the directions...* I sent a few emails to people I know in

ministry around the country offering my talents. I have received back so many suggestions and opportunities and this is one of them! Do you know I was on staff for thirteen years doing the newsletter and never knew there was a regional newsletter?

One important thing I realized during my experience is something I have said many times while on staff at UCT. Ministry staffs live in a bubble. We associate mostly with people who are willing to look at themselves and their stuff, own it, and change it. While I was in the hospital, I met a man who had both feet amputated due to diabetes; was walking around with his prosthetic feet & morphine drip and still said it was his wife's responsibility to take care of his diet. He didn't want to know anything about it. Most of the people I met during those 49 days were like him...patients & staff. I met only a handful of people that could understand how their thoughts and beliefs manifested their lives...that there is nothing outside of them controlling the creation of circumstances. There is much work to be done in the world and I believe that Unity has the best message to help the most people.

I'd appreciate it if you would add me to all your church mailing lists so I can get a feel for all the things happening in your churches. In the coming year I hope to network ideas about programs, classes, changes in ministries, youth activities, ministry miracles and any other divine inspirations that come my way through all of you. My address is:

Debbie Cristafir  
4227 S. Grand Blvd  
Spokane, WA 99203

and my email is:  
debcris1952@webband.com

I am looking forward to connecting with all of you with whom I am doing the work!

Many Blessings!  
Debbie

Northwest Region  
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of Unity Churches

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## Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches

### ***Statement of Values***

As members of the Northwest Region we commit to:

- Creating spiritual community through education and practice of the Unity teachings and principles
- Experiencing unity in diversity as God in expression
- Practicing innovation and creativity in all that we do
- Healing and transforming through the power of love, prayer and Spirit
- Supporting our children and youth on their spiritual journey.

### ***Mission Statement***

We love, respect and support each other as we grow and empower our ministries.

### ***Vision Statement***

We are a community of powerful, prosperous and successful people committed to Unity ministry.

As a region we pray together, reach out, and care for each other.

Through the sharing of resources and information, and the education and training of our leadership, we encourage ministries to thrive.

We utilize systems, processes, and technology to enhance our capacity to minister with ease and flexibility.

In God, we enthusiastically do together more than we can do alone.

## We Offer You:

- Professional peacemaking training
- Our Spring Regional Conference
- Paid Youth Education Consultant who presents workshops/ conferences and trainings within our region
- Paid Youth of Unity (YOU) Consultant who presents rallies, workshops/ conferences and trainings within our region
- Summer Camp for youth and teens
- A Regional Representative
- A Licensed Teacher Representative
- Two SEE scholarships towards becoming a Licensed Unity Teacher
- One regional MEP scholarship awarded to second-year Student
- Regional Trainings for church boards
- Yearly Family Summer Retreat at Fort Worden in August