

# Good News

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

Spring 2007



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

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*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 July 1st. Email your article to me at: [debcris1952@webband.com](mailto:debcris1952@webband.com)

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*Thanks to artist, Doug Cristafir, for creating the new look for the masthead.*

## Heart Notes

From your Northwest Regional Chairperson  
**Barbara Wilson**

Hello Friends,

I am really enjoying spring this year. In January my husband and I put up our first bird feeder. Since then we have added three more. I am hooked on bird-watching! I never realized before how empty my yard was. Now it vibrates with life!

The Northwest Region also vibrates with life as evidenced by the many endings and new beginnings that I have witnessed in the past few months.

With regards to the regional board, trustee Rev. Georgie Richardson resigned effective March 1. Georgie was our board chaplain, liaison to the regional conference team and significant Keeper of the Light on the prosperity team. Her e-mailed Light Keeper messages have been a tremendous source of inspiration, not only in our region, but in other regions where the program has touched hearts and minds. Georgie blessed the board with her upbeat, enthusiastic spirit and a powerful prayer consciousness. We are grateful for the privilege we had to

serve with her on the board.

However Spirit now calls her to invest her energies in other ways.

This left a position open on the board with a full year remaining. I am happy to announce that Rev. Inge Tarantola has accepted this position. She has also agreed to assume the treasurer's responsibilities when Rev. Roy Ayers leaves the board. We heartily welcome Inge onto the board!

Rev. Philip Zemke volunteered to assume the chaplain duties on the board. He is Spirit's perfect answer to our request.

Rev. Roy Ayers and I will finish our terms and go off the board at our regional conference in May. What a gift it has been to serve with Roy. He has been a powerful stand for faith and clear communication. That's what made him an awesome treasurer for our region.

Another change on the board regards the regional representative. Rev. Steve Towles will finish his term at the National conference in June. He has decided not to pursue another term so that he can fully invest his energies in his

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

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### **Janet Rhodes, LUT Regional Representative**

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### **Scott McClintock, Board Member**

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ministry and in other creative endeavors. Steve leaves some very big shoes to fill. He has been a friend and mentor to many of us. I have so appreciated his wisdom and support numerous times during my twelve years in this region.

Our nominating team of Diedre Ashmore, chair; Anna Joy Grace and myself are working with ease and grace to provide the conference body with a great slate of candidates to fill the two board positions and the regional representative role.

#### Other news:

At the Board's face-to-face meeting in Blaine, Washington in February, Rev. Scott McClintock led us in a revision of our bylaws. We are blessed to have Scott's help with this work because he has such a passion for bylaws! We are quite excited about the proposed changes. You were mailed a copy to review prior to our regional conference in May. If you did not get it, or misplaced your copy, please let a Board member know, and we will be happy to get one to you.

The financial results are in for our fiscal year 2006-07. Income was \$20,000 less than expenses because love offerings were down and there was a \$10,000 loss on our family retreat last year. We were blessed to have cash reserves to cover the shortfall. Thank you, God!!

This year we intend to be financially healthy! The Board will increase its communications on finances so that you will be better informed when you prayerfully distribute your tithes and love offerings throughout this year.

We also intend for this year's family retreat to be profitable as well. As you may have heard, the retreat will be at Crystal Mountain, August 16-19. We have Raphael Cushnir for our main speaker on the theme: "Unity From the Inside Out: Serving Spirit Through our Emotions, Thoughts, Words and Actions." It will be a great summer event for the whole family.

#### Leadership changes:

Rev. Billie Blaine and Rev. Lisa Davis now share the ministerial duties at Unity in Portland, OR. Many blessings to them in their new work!

After twelve years at Unity in the Olympics in Port Angeles, Washington, I have resigned effective April 30. It's been an amazing journey, and I am deeply grateful that I was privileged to serve such beautiful, magnificent souls for so many years. I eagerly wait to see how ministerial service unfolds for me!

Do hope to see as many of you as possible at conference in May!

In love and light,  
Barbara



# Youth Ministry Thrives in the Northwest Region!

By Penny Gruver, Children's Ministry Consultant

## ***Hello friends!***

It was another grand weekend at the *27th annual* Youth Team Conference, held January 26th-28th at Camp Huston Center, Goldbar, WA. We had attendees from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Utah. The NW Regional Youth Services Team met on Thursday, January 25th, for the first of our bi-annual planning sessions. Those present for that meeting were, Jackie Green and Wayne Green, UCT, Spokane, WA., Penny Gruver, Port Angeles, WA., Wally Vlasak, Tacoma, WA., Chris Castaldi, Lake Oswego, OR., Sharon Viehdorfer, Salem, OR., Marelu Greco, Seattle, WA. Joining us for the weekend were the NW Regional YOU Officers, April Griffith and Joe Prentice, who came to finalize the selection of this year's Kid's Camp Counselor's. Nick Muncie Jarvis joined us on grounds Friday with his NGU report and update.

Our theme this year was DEEP LOVE; GOING TO THE WELL. Our special presenter was Mark Welch, a well known visionary musician and facilitator, who led us in singing, chanting, toning, dancing and two powerful forgiveness rituals. We explored our theme in a small group setting, in the format we call "transformational circles." The first circle theme on Friday evening was NOURISH. Later that evening, Philip Zemke led us in a powerful water blessing for our Friday vespers. Our second circle gathering focus on Saturday morning was HEAL, the third on Satur-

day afternoon was UNITE, and the final transformational circle on Sunday morning focused on CELBRATE; The Journeyer's Message.

There was time in the weekend allotted for gathering our special interest groups together (YED's, YOU Sponsors, Uniteen Leaders and Teachers) and, Rik Ehman, a long-time NW region Unity supporter and one of the original Uniteen Camp Facilitator's led a workshop on Saturday afternoon called, *Journey to the Heart*.

After our rollicking Saturday evening Spirit Share, (M.C.'d brilliantly by our YOU Regional Officers), and complete with some extraordinary handmade costumes... we moved into almost two hours of Sufi dancing for our Saturday evening vespers.

Our Sunday celebration was a collaborative event...Mark played music and Jackie, Penny, and Philip all took turns speaking. Margie Hyatt from West Sound Unity gave the opening meditation.

Our shared statement for the weekend was the following from Kahil Gibran:

*In the hidden depths of your hopes  
and desires  
lies your silent knowledge  
of the beyond;  
and, like seeds dreaming beneath  
the snow,  
your heart dreams of spring.*

Other things on the near and far horizon for NW Region Youth supporters are:

YOU Rally at Camp Cispus from Friday, April 20th- Sunday, April 22nd. For active YOU'ers from 14-18 years old.

Kids Camp at Camp Waskowitz, North Bend. Counselors will arrive Friday, June 22nd, with the campers coming on Saturday the 23rd through Tuesday the 26th. The theme will be decided by the counselor's during the March Training Intensive in Spokane, with the flyers going out shortly after that. This event ( a three day and four night camp) is for youth from 7-11 years of age and is facilitated by Rev.'s Jackie Green and Penny Gruver. This is the NW Region YOU service project.

Summer Unitreat is from June 24th - June 29th at Camp Cispus Center, near Randle, WA. This event is for *active* Uniteen's who are 11-14. Campers should be 11 or have finished 6th grade. This is NOT for youth just out of 5th grade...Campers who have completed 7th and 8th grade are welcome as long as they are 14 or under. This camp is facilitated by Chris Castaldi, NW Region Uniteen Event Coordinator.

Also coming up are Fall YOU Retreat weekend in October and Fall Unitreat in November. More information about these events will follow.

For those of you who like to plan

# NW Regional Family Retreat at Crystal Mountain 2007

Marilyn Muehlbach, Retreat Coordinator

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

## Unity From the Inside Out

Serving Spirit

Through our Emotions, Thoughts, Words and Actions  
Crystal Mountain, Washington; August 16-19, 2007

In case you haven't heard, the Northwest Region Retreat and Family Vacation Celebration is returning to Crystal Mountain with its spectacular beauty and clear mountain air. We have an exciting Retreat planned for you, your friends and your families. Raphael Cushnir, author and spiritual pioneer, is our featured speaker. He will be joined by Rev. Lisa Davis, Rev. John McLean, Rev. Billie Blaine, Maureen and Rev. Richard Levi, as well as other Unity Ministers from our region and fabulous and creative musician Richard Burdick.

Watch for brochures. They'll be out soon. For more information, including registration forms, please check our website, [www.nwunityretreat.org](http://www.nwunityretreat.org). If you have questions, e-mail [registrar@nwunityretreat.org](mailto:registrar@nwunityretreat.org) or call 1-877-unity10 and leave a message. Our Registrar will call you back promptly.



***Start planning now — Your presence makes a difference!***

### From the Desk of the Treasurer:

Thank you for your support of this Region with your monthly tithes and gifts. You are generous and divine! Our fiscal year ended March 1, 2007. Our Northwest Region expenses exceeded income by approximately \$20,000. Our final report will be presented by the Board at the May Menucha Conference along with our new budget. The Ft. Worden summer retreat was a bit more than 1/2 the financial loss. We have pre-paid the Menucha Conference deposit which is a large portion of the other 1/2 of the loss. We expect to recover this amount with Menucha registration fees.

I will not see you all this May at our conference as my wife, Julie and I will be together on a sabbatical. We will be traveling in Europe. In the joy and adventure of our new fiscal year together I share some powerful words from Joshua:

*Choose ye this day whom ye will serve, Fear or faith?  
the intellect or divine guidance?*

As we let God juggle all situations and matters of our abundant Northwest Region we know that God will always make a way where there is no way. We are divinely led and Spirit is making the way. I have had the pleasure of serving this wonderful Region for three years as the Treasurer. It has been a joy and a blessing.

We continue to choose to follow spiritual law and with courage and strength, we now radiate success. Let us know that our dreams and visions for our Northwest Region are right now released through our faith and prayers. The divine activity of Spirit is operating in all of our financial affairs. That is the way it really is.

In gratitude, peace, and abundance,  
Roy W. Ayers

# Licensed Unity Teacher News

By Janet Rhodes, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative

Hello, licensed teachers and teachers in training! I am writing this at Easter, when our thoughts turn to renewal and transformation. This year, Easter marks my thirtieth year as a Unity student. Like many people, I started coming to Unity during a time of crisis. What I learned on Sunday morning and in the very first class I took — Lessons In Truth — helped me through a very difficult divorce. I bless Unity and the spiritual principles I've learned for turning my life around. When we teach — in whatever form that “teaching” takes — we are providing opportunities for individuals to transform their lives! Isn't that great!

## Regional LUT Moves on to Ministerial Training

Patty Williams, the alternate licensed teacher representative, has been accepted into the ministerial program! You can congratulate her at the regional conference in May.

## Facilitator Guides For SEE Classes

Paul Hasselbeck reports that Unity Institute is putting together new facilitator guides for SEE classes. Some are ready for licensed teachers and ministers to use in SEE credit classes while others are being worked on.

Contact Lisa Hurst in the SEE Department to find out if a guide is available for the credit class you are planning to teach. The SEE Department is asking that you order only for the class you are getting ready to teach. Paul says that if you ask for all of the guides at once, you may find that the guide you want to use later is out of date.

Lisa Hurst's email is [HurstLM@unityonline.org](mailto:HurstLM@unityonline.org).

Also, Paul says that you can learn who is regularly teaching the class you are interested in teaching. That instructor will help you if you would like.

I had a great & supportive experience a few years ago with instructor Claudell County, who provided me with information to teach the *Healing And Prosperity In The Bible* class. She talked with me on the phone and sent me written information. I found it quite helpful.

Paul says, “Remember we are here to serve you!”

So, please, when you are planning to teach a class, contact the SEE Department to find out about the availability of a guide, and to get contact information for the current constructor of the class.

## Proposed by-Law Changes

When you read the proposed changes to the Regional by-laws (coming to you separately), you will notice that the board is suggesting a change to Section 2.

*Delegates and Voting* that includes each licensed teacher as a delegate to the annual regional conference business meeting. The current language lists only minister members as delegates to the business meeting.

When you receive the proposed bylaw changes, please read them carefully and, if you are going to attend the business meeting at the May conference, be prepared to vote on the changes. Our bylaws are an important part of the structure of our region.

## Important Report To Read

In January, the Association issued a report written by James Trapp entitled *Designing Our Future Together*. If you haven't read this report yet, please do. You can find it at <http://www.unity.org/CEOarticle.html>.

From the February LUT Newsletter

Your nine member Licensed Teacher Ministry Team met at the January meetings to discuss many of the aspects of the program. The team's goal is to see the program ever improving and growing. We want to hear from you—your ideas, suggestions, kudos or concerns. Please email your Licensed Teacher Coordinator at [luc@unity.org](mailto:luc@unity.org).

## Reminder-Licensed Teachers and Teachers in Training will meet at Regional Conference

The licensed teachers and teachers-in-training will be meeting from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday during the annual regional conference, which will run from Monday, May 14, through Thursday noon. That gives us a great opportunity to be together without worrying about conflicts in the schedule. Please let me know what you would like to accomplish during that hour-and-a-half so I can include it in the agenda.

The conference is a wonderful way to connect with others in the region and to experience an infilling of Spirit.

## Contact Information

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One in Truth,

Janet Rhodes, licensed teacher representative

Northwest Region, Association of Unity Churches



## Unity Earth Care Northwest

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

### Earth Care Prayer

#### Spring is Here!

The birds herald the dawning of a new day with joyous song. Without question or doubt, they exuberantly fly about doing what is theirs to do, fulfilling their divine purpose. Today I choose to follow their lead and joyously do what is mine to do.

And so it is. Amen.

— Carrie Kenyon, MEP, Unity Institute

### Travels of the Earth Care Banner

The Earth Care Banner will help Unity Church of Bozeman, MT celebrate Earth Day on April 21-22. Along with placing their helping hands on the banner, Bozeman Unitics will hang prayer ribbons outside their church. The Uniteens are raising funds to buy a tree for the new city library and their own membership with the National Arbor Day Foundation. With a membership they receive 10 free seedling trees to plant for Arbor Day (celebrated nationally on April 27).

From Bozeman, the Banner flies to Kansas City, MO, for the 2007 Unity Peoples' Convention, where it will grace the Earth Care exhibit in the Trade Show (see box below).

### Earth Care at Regional Conference

Don't forget to bring water to the opening ceremony of the Regional Conference on May 14 at 6 p.m. The "blending of the waters" has become a popular event at conference. It's a great way to come together in unity! After you experience it, you may wish to include it in your ministry's calendar of events.

The Earth Care Team is drafting a declaration on earth care. We believe there is a standard, an ethic, for the practice of being human in the midst of all creation, and it is important to clearly state our commitment to it. The declaration will be unveiled at Regional Conference.

We have also submitted a proposal for the ongoing work of Earth Care to the Regional Board. Our vision is of a regional Earth Care program that facilitates networking among member ministries and shares information and resources. To manifest this vision, we want to increase our contacts with sub-regions and individual ministries and hope to have a regional representative to coordinate the work. Please hold this exciting possibility for the future of our work in prayer.

### Fruits of Our Work – Earth Care Featured at 2007 Unity Peoples Convention

The Unity Spiritual Social Action Ministry Team selected "the Unity Earth Care ministry developed by various Unity ministries in the Northwest Region" as one of twenty ministries to feature at their seminar at the 2007 Unity People's Convention. Thank You to the ministries in our region who have pioneered Earth Care—we are privileged to share your enthusiasm and successes with others.

You are cordially invited to attend our "Path to Earth Care" workshop at convention and to visit the Unity Earth Care exhibit in the Trade Show. The Great Lakes and Northwest Region's Earth Care Teams are cohosting the display, which will share ideas and free literature for starting earth care.

Contact us at [unityearthcare@yahoo.com](mailto:unityearthcare@yahoo.com) or at (360) 457-3981

(c/o Barbara Wilson, Unity of the Olympics).

Visit our web page (under Programs) at [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org)

## Could You Resist Temptation?

Seventeen young adults couldn't resist the temptation to gather at Unity Church of Portland for a retreat full of spiritual growth and renewal. The Next Generation of Unity gathered the last weekend in March for "EDEN: Expressing Divine Energy Now." We looked at how we express our inner Christ to the world and to ourselves. We examined our routines and whether they were helping us share our divine nature or hindering us and we set intentions to make positive changes, in thought and behavior.



For our service project we helped out at Woodland Park Community Garden where we removed weeds (including error thoughts like: "I have a bad back."), tilled the earth making it fresh and ready for new life and new growth, and laid paths so that our journey and the journeys of others may be clear and easy.

Saturday night we watched *The Secret* which was followed by a lively discussion, then yoga, fuzzies, and dancing. The next morning we attended a lovely Palm Sunday service led by Rev. Lisa Davis.

This retreat was a great success, thank you for all the support you've given to NGU in preparation for this event and all year long!

With Love and Gratitude,  
Nick Muncie-Jarvis  
NW NGU Coordinator



To hear more about NGU and to see pictures from our retreat, visit the Next Generation page at [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org)

### Your Youth Ministry Connections:

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ahead, our Annual Fall YED Leadership Weekend will be held September 28, 29, and 30th at Seabeck Christian Conference Center @ Seabeck, WA. The tentative theme for 2007 is *Honoring the Ancestors*. This weekend is open to all YED's and their "right-hand" folks, and is a weekend of renewal, fellowship and exploration/discussion of issues specific to leadership in Youth Ministry. You can expect the flyer and registration information to be out for this event late June or early July.

It is with deep appreciation that I say THANK YOU to all of you who continue to hold the high watch for our young people. Youth Ministry is thriving here in the Northwest region.

Richest blessings,  
Penny Gruver  
NW Region Children's Ministry  
Consultant

**T**he world is not in need of a new religion, nor is the world in need of a new philosophy: What the world needs is healing and regeneration. The world needs people who, through devotion to God, are so filled with the Spirit that they can be instruments through which healings take place, because healing is important to everybody.

~ Joel S. Goldsmith



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*Sent with love and blessings to:*

## 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