

Good News



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

Fall 2008

Heart Notes

From your Northwest Regional Chairperson, Philip Arthur Zemke

Beloved friends of the Northwest,

This August I celebrated my dad's ninety years on the planet with him in Michigan. My dad was an insurance salesman. One day after church he said to me, "I provided people with insurance, but you provide them with assurance." In truth God provides the ultimate assurance and we get to be the messengers and demonstrators of that assurance.

Once upon a time, as the story goes, our relatives had been in bondage to material consciousness for a long time. They would be freed only when they came to an agreement (covenant) with God about their purpose. It is only when we have a clarity of purpose that we find ourselves, free ourselves, and so transformed can enter the promised land to build our home on the rock of Divine Mind.

The one who was the mediator between Divine Mind and the people seeking purpose went up on the mountain to get a wider and higher view of the situation at hand. And as Charles Fillmore tells us, the YAH (masculine principle) WEH (feminine principle) spoke to that fellow. One

translation of what was said is, "tell them that I AM THAT I AM." Another translation of what was revealed is, "tell them that I AM WHAT YOU NEED WHEN YOU NEED IT." Now that second translation surely is a call to be present to the revealing purpose of what we are to do, not yesterday or tomorrow, but right now.

Out here in Montana we live in Huckleberry country. There is a saying from the frontier times that goes, "I'll be your Huckleberry." This saying, according to the Webster's American Slang Dictionary, means, i.e., "I have shown up with the talents to do the thing that you need to have done right now." So a third translation of the revealed word would have YAHWEH saying, "I'll be your Huckleberry." The Divine Source of Life is our Huckleberry in all ways always.

Charles Fillmore wrote that the Divine Source of Life is unlimited and un-manifest, and thus utilizes us to bring the Divine Idea into manifestation and demonstration. We are, God's Huckleberry just as God is ours. And that, my brothers and sisters, is a covenant of purpose for each of us to abide with in

continued on page 2: Heartnotes

Inside this Issue:

Musings On Leadership	3
Financial Update	4 & 5
SEE Scholarships	4
Youth Ministry	6 & 7
Earth Care Ministry	8
LUT News	9

If you would like to submit something for the next issue, the due date is January 1, 2009.

Email your article to:
debris1952@webband.com

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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.

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continued from page 1:Heartnotes

our inner temple.

When we look outward upon our world we are moreover called to proclaim, "I'll be your Huckleberry," just as our fellow in the story did when he came back from the mountain-top bringing the message of Divine assurance. As a mediator he believed for those seeking purpose what they could not then believe for themselves. His purpose as mediator was to invite them into their own covenant of assurance with Divine Mind.

Unity is an affirmative way to healing and reconciliation. Through the purposeful practice of love and acceptance we dissolve any seeming distance between self and other, between seeming lack and assured abundance, between Creator and Creation.

Our prayers of affirmation of the God of Good lifts up our world, even as it wanders in the wilderness of fear that "the crops won't grow and we won't have enough." Through the research of David Hawkins we are told that one thought of affirmative positive nature balances tens of thousands of thoughts of a negative nature. When we are praying, speaking, and acting for the positive covenant with the God of Good we are manifesting the harmony of balance for our world. We are mediators for Divine Ideas to be manifest in the transformation of the straw of old problems into the new gold of the Heavens on Earth. And that, my sisters and brothers, is a covenant of purpose that we have received to now share as the gift with the Holy whole world.

And so the story continued. Once freed from material bondage our relatives wandered about until they had made the covenant with the Divine Mind to live a God centered life (please note that many challenges to keeping that covenant have transpired to this very day). They then went to look at the Promised Land. And there was a river of emotions, negative and positive so the story goes, that they needed to cross to get to the Promised Land. Then each of the twelve tribes selected one of their tribe to fulfill a purpose. The selected one was the Huckleberry. The purposeful act was to place a stone in the river. Each placed their stone, standing on the stone placed before theirs, until a path across the river had been created, and only then did our relatives cross to the Promised Land of their time.

As Unity students with a covenant of purpose; to affirm that our God centered lives are transforming our world, we have our stone to place in the river of our time. Let us hold firm to the assurance that through the harmonious pace of Spirit's guidance, and our willingness to act on that guidance, that each of us and all our relatives will in the words of the old spiritual song of faith "Come over Jordan into the Promised Land one day."

I bless you with a fine Thanksgiving, a transforming Christmas and a brilliant New Year. In Blessings and Love, you are all my Huckleberries.

Philip



NW Region Representative

Rev. Barbara Wilson

Musings On Leadership

Shortly after I became regional representative, I talked with a ministry trustee who was concerned about the behavior of a few members of that ministry. Those members were dissatisfied and expressed their dissatisfaction in a way that appeared to drive people away.

As I listened I recalled something from The Four Fold Way by Angeles Arrien. I remembered that we human beings will rely upon *intensity* to feel passionately alive when we are not in touch with our power of love. The situation at this ministry struck me as particularly tense and *intense*.

What I also found curious was how a few individuals could hold an entire group of individuals relatively hostage.

This inspired an appreciative inquiry into leadership. Because I had flashed upon The Four Fold Way, I began my inquiry there.

As I reflected upon its themes, I came to view the four paths that are the subject of the book (warrior, healer, visionary, and teacher) as the four aspects of what it means to be *conscious*. Specifically, the warrior path is all about leadership consciousness.

The leadership consciousness theme is **Show Up and Be Present**. And there are several specific tasks:

- Understand the three sources of power—presence, communication and position
- Use of judicious communication
- Set appropriate limits and boundaries
- Be responsible and disciplined
- Appropriate use of power
- Honor and respect all

As I worked with these ideas, I also came to see a relationship between the four elements (observation, feelings, needs, requests) of nonviolent communication (NVC) and the four paths. The leadership path relates to the “needs” element.

Simply put, then, a powerful leader is one who honors and respects their needs and is responsible for them. This is, of course, greatly oversimplified. I have relied upon a competent coach to help me translate that into authentic action.

For instance, I am a self-employed individual who performs wedding services. Although I have performed weddings for years, I never really considered the value of my time and the time required to prepare and perform one. I now have a basic wedding fee that compensates me far more adequately for my time. And I am able to communicate to prospective clients much more clearly what services I offer, to negotiate the specifics of the service to my satisfaction and theirs and to have clear commitments for my responsibilities and theirs.

Recently I learned of a minister in our region who is experimenting with a rather unique approach to pulpit ministry. What I understand is that this individual has determined a professional hourly fee and the hours that are required to do specific ministerial tasks. The minister then provides an accounting of hours worked and bills the ministry accordingly.

I am really intrigued by this approach and hope to learn more about this experiment. I like the personal accountability and the clear communication to the ministry of work performed. It is one possible

approach to an adult relationship with a congregation. It allows the minister to be independent rather than codependent with the ministry.

My appreciative inquiry into leadership will be a lifelong pursuit. I really, really, *really* want to hear your thoughts on this subject, *especially if you greatly disagree with me!* Your input will enrich my understanding and improve my communication.

Love and Light,
Barbara

What’s happening regionally?

- Check out the information on **SEE scholarships**. The deadline for applications for 2009 sessions is **JANUARY 31, 2009**.
- The region has received four excellent applications for the regional administrative assistant position. We hope to have this position filled by November 1.
- We now have a phone number that you can call for regional information. The number is 360-775-9684. This is a cell phone, and I am currently its trustee. When we have hired an administrative assistant, the assistant will have the phone.
- Philip Zemke and I, as representatives of our regional leadership, participate in quarterly conference calls with our Association’s CEO James Trapp and representatives from other regions. An important topic is the Thriving Ministries strategic plan. Please let members of our regional board, as well as Association staff, know how the materials, trainings, etc. are working for you. This is an adventure that we are on together. It will require the wisdom and understanding of us all.

From The Desk of the Treasurer — Rev. Inge Tarantola

To all of you who made it to Crystal Mountain, I trust you had as wonderful a time as my congregants and I did. Although the number of attendees was small, spirits were high.

We have reached the midpoint of our fiscal year, or 50%. Looking at the budget figures, you will notice a shortfall of 12,559 year to date. That is primarily due to three factors:

1. Love offerings from churches are at 45%, which translates to \$5,833 short of budget.
2. Final figures are not in yet from Menucha, due to a misunderstanding.
3. Final figures from Crystal Mountain are not in yet. With the low attendance, we anticipate a shortfall this year.

Hope to hear from you with questions or suggestions.

We hold the vision that God's abundant supply will meet and exceed our needs, and we give thanks in advance for the abundance flowing into our lives and the Northwest Region. It is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom.

God's richest blessings,
Inge Tarantola



SEE Scholarships Available

There are two scholarships available for the Spiritual Enlightenment and Education (SEE) program at Unity Village. One is granted by Unity Institute. The other is paid for by the Northwest Region. Both are awarded by the Northwest Regional Board.

Both pay for room and board and tuition. The region specifically pays for room and board up to the cost of a single motel room.

To apply, please mail and/or e-mail a written request, along with a letter of recommendation from your minister or ministry board president, to the Regional Representative by January 31 for the SEE sessions of that year.

The written request will include your interest and experience in

Unity and an indication of your financial need.

Priority consideration will be given to those who:

1. Have completed the personal development classes and must go to Unity Village for "C" courses.
2. Have not previously received a SEE scholarship.
3. Have no credentialed leaders in their home ministry.
4. Have a financial need.
5. Are committed to becoming a Licensed Unity Teacher.

The Board will review the applications and make their awards at their February board meeting.

The current regional representative can be reached at:

Barbara Wilson
1025 W. 11th St.
Port Angeles, WA 98363
bwilson@olypen.com
360-457-3620

After a time of decay comes the turning point. The powerful light that had been banished returns. There is movement, but it is not brought about by force...it is characterized by devotion. The movement is natural, arising spontaneously. For this reason the transformation of the old becomes easy. The old is discarded and the new is introduced. Both measures accord with the time; therefore, no harm results.

I Ching

Save the Date!
April 27-30, 2009

NW Regional
Conference
Menucha Conference
Center

Watch for more
information in the next
newsletter

or
email
Patty Williams at:
unitypatty@att.net

Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches
Fiscal Year — 2008 - 2009

	Proposed	Mar-August	50.00%
	Budget	Actual	Percent
Income			
Offerings from Churches & Others	114,300	51,317	0.45
Sustaining Programs-Summer Retreat	7,000	-3750	-0.54
Sustaining Programs-Reg. Conf. Menucha	3,000	-2711	-0.90
Youth Ministry	10,000		0.00
Total Income	134,300	44856	0.33
Expenses			
Bank Service Charges	200	418	2.09
Contract Bookkeeping (b)	5,400	2547	0.47
Equipment Rental Visa CC Machine	200	32	0.16
Insurance	2,800	1220	0.44
LUT Rep Exp	5,800	1429	0.25
Children's Ministry Exp	7,000	2875	0.41
Office Supplies	100	26	0.26
Postage & Mailings	300	188	0.63
Regional Rep Exp	13,700	4559	0.33
Alternate Region Rep	1,000	120	0.12
Tithe (a)	13,400	5132	0.38
Salaries (Youth Programs) (b)	40,100	19936	0.50
Y.O. U. Exp	6,500	2430	0.37
Regional Team Exp	7,000	5853	0.84
Field Licensing Program	3,500	1721	0.49
Other Exp (Flowers etc)	800	971	1.21
Newsletter	800	423	0.53
Uniteens	4,500	3161	0.70
NGU Exp	1,600	2589	1.62
Employee Expenses Payroll Exp.	3,100	1534	0.49
Regional Website	900	250	0.28
SEE Scholarship	1,800		0.00
Earth Care	1,500		0.00
Contributions Pioneering Church	3,000		0.00
Fall Traing	2,500		0.00
Cell Phone	600		0.00
Administrative Support (6 Month Trial)	5,000		0.00
Judicatory Representative	1,200		0.00
Total Expenses	\$ 134,300	\$ 57,414	0.43
Net Income/(Loss)			-12,559

Regoinal Conference not closed

Our Regional Youth Ministry

LeRoy White Receives 2008 Grace Note Award at Unity Village!

Our beloved LeRoy White recently received a very special honor at this year's AUC "Sound Connections" New Thought Music Week, held September 14 - 19 at Unity Village. LeRoy is the recipient of this year's 2008 Grace Note Award for outstanding achievement in Unity & New Thought Music as a result of his long-standing work with Unity's North American Y.O.U. groups, as well as his numerous solo concerts & workshops. With his wife looking on from the first row, LeRoy came up to accept his award saying, "for the first time in my life, I am absolutely speechless!" Upon dedicating the award to his wife, he then stepped off-stage and handed it to her. It was one of the most touching and heartfelt moments of the week-long conference.

Fortunately, he regained his composure, stepped back on-stage, and proceeded to absolutely bring the house down with a uniquely powerful performance, LEROY-STYLE!!! Many attendees were experiencing him for the very first time, and all of them were completely blown away by his wonderfully charismatic energy. Needless to say, he sold out of ALL CDs immediately following the presentation & concert.

We on the Music Ministry Team are honored to have him in our midst and are very happy to have finally given him the loving recognition he so much

deserves. He continues to touch countless people, young & old, with his magical, mystical music and presence.

We love you LeRoy!!!

Jennifer Ferren
Association of Unity Churches
Music Ministry Team

Editor's Note: Jennifer is having her powerpoint presentation honoring LeRoy's ministry with Unity converted to a DVD format so that everyone who loves him can share a little of the joy that is LeRoy. She will let us know when it is ready!

NW Next Generation of Unity Retreat

FOLLOW YOUR BLISS

November 14th - 16th, 2008

Lewis & Clark State Park – Winlock, WA

For more information visit the the NW region website at: www.unitynwregion.org or contact:

Nick Muncie-Jarvis – ztx@juno.com

Krista Harper – kristah30@hotmail.com

Jennie Willingham – jenniewillingham@hotmail.com



**Northwest Region Youth of Unity
RENDEZVOUS 2008**

August 10 – 14

**This year's theme was:
Truth: Find It Face It
Live It**

107 people from 16 churches attended

*2nd Regional YOU event in Oregon!
2nd Rendezvous ever!*

2nd Regional YOU summer event!

Featuring:

The Musical Ministry of
LeRoy White



Practicing a Mindful Presence

Northwest Regional Youth
Team Conference

January 23th- 25th, 2009

Camp Huston Center, Gold Bar, WA

Cost: \$205 U.S. funds per person or \$190 post-
marked by 1/4/2009

Those of you who have attended this event in the past know what an incredible time it is! The weekend will include time for renewal, special interest groups, leadership skills enhancement, singing, laughter, prayer and fellowship. Rev. Richard and Maureen Levy will be gifting us with their Deeksha Blessing and other Mindful experiences. Rev.s Jackie Green and Penny Gruver, your NW Regional Youth Ministry Consultants, will be there to greet you. We will also be blessed by the presence of your NW Youth Services Team members: Rev. Philip Zemke, Bozemen, MT; Wally Vlasak, Tacoma, WA; Nick Muncie-Jarvis of Beaverton, OR; Marelu Greco, Seattle, WA; Chris Castaldi, Lake Oswego, OR; and Sharon Viehdorfer, Salem, OR. You will have an opportunity to get to know this year's dynamic NW Y.O.U. Officers: Ms. Hope Rubinkowski, of Lynnwood WA. and Mr. Hank Prentice of West Linn OR.

Our special musician friend, Mark Welch, will be leading us in a journey of discovery through sacred song and sound. Plan on participating in our famous Saturday Night Live Spirit Share (and if you have any costume-type things you might want to share for this - do bring them along!).

This weekend is for Ministers, Y.O.U. Sponsors, Uniteen Leaders, Youth Ed. Directors, and, SEA-SONED teachers - this is NOT a training weekend for new teachers. Please remember to bring any ideas that have worked for you, or other things you may want to share during our special interest group time.

Did you know that 2009 is the 30th Anniversary of the NW Region's Kids Camp??

We are putting together a photostory of memories over the 30 years including all of the group pictures! Do you know of someone in your ministry that may have photos, other memorabilia or thoughts about the impact kids camp may have had on their lives as adults? If so, email them or any questions to Debbie Cristafir at: debcris1952@webband.com

Fall Unitreat

What Do You Stand For?

Exploring the 12 Powers Within Ourselves

November 7, 8, 9 2008

Fall Unitreat 2008 @ Cispus Learning
Center...Outside Randle Washington

Registration begins @ 7PM on Friday November
7th,

Retreat ends @1pm on Sunday November 9th
Cost—\$ 130 per person

Registration closes on **Monday, October 27th**

A full flyer with contact information and registra-
tion form is available on the website at:

www.unitynwregion.org

Your Youth Ministry Connections:

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Jackie Green Consultant/Teens

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Chris Castaldi Unitreat Event Coordinator

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Unity Earth Care Northwest

We declare our covenant with God to walk upon Earth for the greatest good of all creation.

An Earth Care Prayer

*The beauty of the trees
 The softness of the air
 The fragrance of the grass speaks to me
 The summit of a mountain
 The thunder of the sky
 The rhythm of the seas speaks to me
 The faintness of the stars
 The freshness of the morning
 The dewdrops on the flowers speaks to me
 The strength of the fire
 The taste of salmon
 The trail of the sun
 And the life that never goes away
 Speaks to me, and my heart soars.*
 —Attributed to Chief Dan George

Fruits of the Work – Spokane River Cleanup

Members of Unity Church of Truth's Green Team were enthusiastic participants at this year's Spokane River Cleanup in eastern Washington this fall. They joined over 550 volunteers from schools and organizations around the city to pick up trash and be good stewards of the parks along the river. The Green Team worked alongside university exchange students, boating enthusiasts and fly fishermen and added their bags to the growing piles. At the 2007 cleanup over four *tons* of trash were picked up and 2,500 pounds were recycled.



Conquering trash at the Spokane River Cleanup

More Fruits – The Spiritual Art of Translation

An initial step of Earth Care work is to gather information that assists us in understanding the dynamics and opportunities for being active stewards. The information we gather comes from many sources. And whereas the information may be essential to our work, the tone of the presenter may be fear-based. We are then called upon as Unity Truth students to translate the feeling tone of fear to one that affirms the good. The information that is useful need not be missed because we need to make that translation. It may even be seen that this task of translation is useful not only in matters of Earth Care but is essential to much of what we read and see in a world focused on fear and appearances.

As students of the Unity way, we are seeking to measure everything we encounter in the world by the Divine Idea behind the appearance. We can affirm the good of the facts and information we receive about the care of Earth, and we can artfully translate the tone to affirm and attune with Unity principles. It is an act of effort and of love. When we love we reduce the distance between self and other. The Unity way is a practice of reconciliation and healing, a demonstration of love and oneness. When we seek to measure the tone of another by the standard of love, we can affirm that they are doing the best they can. We succeed in receiving the necessary information and we lift up the presenter in our hearts and minds to the Christ level of reality. Our willingness to translate our world by the spiritual measure of the Christ Mind is a gift to Creation, and an artful demonstration of Earth Care.

—Philip Zemke

Contact Unity Earth Care Northwest at
unityearthcare@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage at www.unitynwregion.org
 go to /Programs/Earth Care

Licensed Unity Teacher News

By Janet Rhodes, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative

October 2008

Lately, I've noticed that when I make an observation – a factual statement of what I observe without making a judgment —sometimes people hear these observations as negative or fear-based comments. Probably, I've noticed it more lately because the Earth Care team has been talking about how a group or individual can acknowledge, or observe, facts without “owning” or supporting the fear-base that may be the catalyst for the statement.

The EarthCare team has been discussing this because there has been some hesitance within Unity about posting articles or showing films that include fear-based statements. Our own Philip Zemke has written an article on the EarthCare page that I encourage all of you to read, if you haven't already.

What is our role in this type of situation as Unity students and licensed teachers?

It's important for us to be aware of ourselves. Is what we say and do congruent with our feelings and belief systems? When someone reacts to what I say, I do a brief replay in my mind: what did I say, how did I say it, and what was my body language?

Sometimes other people will pick up on incongruencies before I do. When (not if) I become aware of a disconnect, I have the opportunity to work to bring greater integrity of spirit, mind, and body in my life. When I model this behavior, I get the gifts of healing, peace and greater internal integrity. And others observe me as I learn new ways of dealing with the kinds of situations they observe every day.

Often, my brief check-in shows me that I am internally consistent. That I am being objective and factual. That is a clue that the other person(s) has some “buttons” being pushed. That they have some places internally where the spiritual teachings and their beliefs systems are at odds.

This is a time when I can be present with the person from a place of centered-ness and spiritual Love. I listen with spiritual understanding. I silently acknowledge the Christ in the person. Often, the first thing I say is: What I said was an observation. I noticed that ... (and I briefly put in the facts). What I am feeling about it is ____ because _____.

Then I continue with what Marshall Rosenberg

calls “empathic listening.” I listen to the person's responses, then “reframe” what I hear. “Reframing” comes out of my experience in mediation, one form of alternative dispute resolution.

To reframe, I listen for the underlying Divine Ideas and for the facts – what was observable with the physical senses unblunted by the veil of fearful expectations and beliefs. Then, I repeat back what I hear the person saying, replacing the fear-based words with language that is spiritually based. I base this on the Spiritual Truth that seems to be behind the person's behavior and statements.

In this way, I honor the individual and I help to create an environment in which the person can more fully attend to the spiritual truth.

Part of this is focus. Is the focus on the negative or harmful stuff? Or is it on what good and healing things people are doing in response to the observed situation? Is the awareness based on a belief that all the power is in the physical world — and that is all that counts? Is the awareness one of the changing nature of this physical universe that we live in and of the unchanging-ness of Spiritual Principle?

We can assist ourselves and others in coming back to center and in seeing, hearing and experiencing life from the Spiritual center of our being.

One in Truth,

Janet Rhodes, licensed teacher representative

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Sent with love and blessings to:

Northwest Region
of the Association of Unity Churches International

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 Crystal Mountain in August