

Woodland Chapel

First Church of Religious Science

This Church Is Joy! In One Spirit, One Mind, One World



VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 2

A Message from Rev. Mary Midkiff, Minister



Hello,

The last time I wrote was at the end of November for our December/January newsletter. So much has happened since then! Christmas has come and gone once again, we've started a new year, and a new administration in Washington (may wisdom and compassion prevail!).

I've also been down some very unexpected paths personally. I had a knee replacement surgery December 4 and had fully expected to be back by January 20, six weeks later. But that was before a severe infection landed me back in the hospital and seriously delayed my rehabilitation. I'm improving daily but still a bit in limbo waiting to see if my efforts will be enough or if I will be back in the O.R. for another procedure. (Keep those prayers coming! I feel them every day.)

As frustrating as this has been, it has given me ample time to ponder this

quality of the unexpected. In Religious Science we teach time-proven principles that help us to create the lives we want: lives of health, joy, abundance, love, and peace. Over the last thirty-plus years I have proven these principles repeatedly. Whole categories of problems that are common to the world never come to my door. The ones that do find me I can handle and move to a happy resolution using those same principles. So I always have an expectation of all being well and going smoothly.

...And then there's THIS! I found myself amazed how so many things could have turned so seriously wrong. I had never in my life been in an ambulance, never needed an emergency room to save my life. What was going on? Where was that wonderful predictability that comes with living by highly reliable principles? I hadn't give them up, I was sure, so what was the deal here?

I have had a wonderful daily prayer partner for the last two years. We've scarcely missed a day,

come vacations, illness or whatever. Many times over the last six weeks she's called and prayed while all I could do was listen and add an "amen", without even the energy to pray further. One thing we have always affirmed is "God is all there is, and all God is, is good." Not long ago she reminded me of that and said, "So if things appear to be not good, that only means that there is a higher and greater good to know instead." I'm sure of that.

While the principles have seen me through so much, maybe what this has been about was to prove to me at an even deeper level that God will never fail regardless of how high the stakes are pushed (and, as I said, in my lifetime the stakes have never been higher). Maybe I need to know this even at a level when the utterly unpredictable happens: When your job is suddenly gone; your house is swept out to sea in a devastating storm; your child is shot in her classroom. These are the realities of this world that the one true REALITY of Spirit can help us to transcend.

God is all there is and all God is, is good. When we can know this in the midst of anything that may befall us here, we can move through it all, always to a higher and greater good.

I'll be seeing you soon!

Love –
Rev. Mary



Applause

A Perfect Thank You

We have so much to be grateful for! This month we wish to send our applause out to ...

... **all the wonderful folks** who were a part of the candle lighting service in December. **Rev. Don, Kathleen, Caleen, Christine, Rob, Vicky, Lisa, Carolyn, Kim, and The Joyful Singers.** For the beautiful goodie filled library, thank you **Ana and Kathy.**

Thank you **Mary Fox** and **Carolyn Uplegger** for staffing the office during Rev. Mary's absence.

A gigantic thank you to **Lisa** for getting the audio of the Sunday messages up on our [website](#).

A special thank you to **Pat Spece** for being our treasurer for the last three years.

And last but not least, the ever wonderful **Rev. Don Kerr** and **Rev. Maur Horton** for our Sunday Messages in Rev. Mary's absence the last six plus weeks.

Meditation

LOVE TO THE WORLD

My Love goes out to every one in the world;

I do not exclude anything, for I love all Nature and everything that is.

My Love warms and lightens everything that it touches, and it goes out into all places.

The Love flowing through me is a Power to all who come into contact with it, and all feel and know that I love.

Love within me is Complete and Perfect.

Love within me is Complete.

Dr. Ernest Holmes
The Science of Mind
page 547

Thank you everyone!

Marion-Polk Food Share

Every year we collect non-perishable food donations from our members during the month of December. For 2012, Woodland Chapel donated 167 pounds of food to the Marion-Polk Food Share.



WOODLAND CHAPEL

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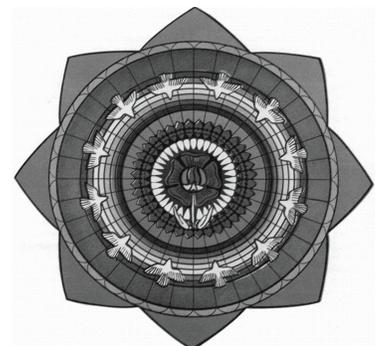
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

As we have no birthdays on record for the month of February, we extend belated Birthday greetings to the following congregants who celebrated their birthdays in January:

Lisa Guillen ..	Jan. 5
Gayle Priem ..	Jan. 11
Caleen Thorsen ..	Jan. 13
Luke Midkiff ..	Jan. 13
Donna Stephens ..	Jan. 19
Ruth TenEyck ..	Jan. 24
Kathy Prather ..	Jan. 27
Cheryl Gribskov ..	Jan. 28
Bill Wood ..	Jan. 29



Woodland Chapel sends birthday cards to our community members. If you would like to be remembered in this way, fill out the form on the Community Matters table.



Sunday Meditation Schedule

Every Sunday morning at 10:30, Woodland Chapel presents a Meditation Service. Each facilitator will guide you into stillness of spiritual connection with their own unique method. We look forward to you joining us:

February 3
Rev. Kathy Prather

February 10
Rev. Don Kerr

February 17
Connie Walker

February 24
Caleen Thorsen



Ministry of Prayer

To contact any of the following people, leave a message at Woodland Chapel,
503-362-4139:

Reverend Don Kerr
Reverend Mary Midkiff
Practitioner Caleen Thorsen
Reverend Maur Horton
Practitioner Kathy Prather
Reverend George Powell
Practitioner Connie Walker

You Are Invited

The Women of Woodland Chapel meet every second Thursday at noon, from October through June and all women are welcome. We are organized within the spirit of service and support to Woodland Chapel and to one another in several ways. Bring your brown bag lunch and enjoy homemade dessert served with coffee or tea.

See you in the Fireside Room, February 14th at 12:00 noon.

The Annual Membership Meeting ...

... is February 3, shortly after Sunday service. All are invited to attend although only church members may vote on Board members and issues that require a membership vote. There are three board positions to fill. The nominating committee will nominate three qualified candidates who are willing to serve. Also, hear reports from the different departments of our Chapel to learn where we stand and what our vision is for the future of our community.



LOVE

Love is the central flame of the universe, nay, the very fire itself. It is written that God is Love, and that we are His expressed likeness, the image of the Eternal Being. Love is self-givingness through creation, the impartation of the Divine through the human.

Love is an essence, an atmosphere, which defies analysis, as does Life Itself. It is that which IS and cannot be explained: it is common to all people, to all animal life, and evident in the response of plants to those who love them. Love reigns supreme over all.

The essence of love, while elusive, pervades everything, fires the heart, stimulates the emotions, renews the soul and proclaims the Spirit. Only love knows love, and love knows only love. Words cannot express its depths or meaning. A universal sense alone bears witness to the divine fact: God is Love and Love is God.

~~ (John 13:34-35) ~~

Dr. Ernest Holmes, *The Science of Mind*, page 478



Community Matters

As part of my Practitioner Training Program, I will be facilitating the **Community Matters Committee** as Cathy Daniels moves on to other areas of service. My intention is to meet regularly at the church to plan future events for 2013. The dates and times are TBA due to church scheduling calendar. We will announce it at church and on the website. Anyone interested in participating in this fun, stimulating committee, should contact Christie Joachim, 503.585.6247 or elanvitale@q.com. Good ideas, anyone?

HELLO WOODLANDERS!!

An invitation for you to participate and contribute to our monthly Newsletter!

We are expanding our newsletter and website to include short articles and poetry containing spiritual or uplifting messages appropriate for New Thought reading. Your inspired inspirations are welcome.

Drop off your contributions in the mail slot marked "Newsletter Editor" located just right of the church office door – or email them to Lisa at successfuledesigns@gmail.com.

All items for publication are subject to review and approval by the Communications Committee, and we are eager to consider submissions from all ages.

Thank you ... and Go for it!

Your Editor ★





From Here To Infinity

By Robert TenEyck

Dying To Be Me

In August 2012 we looked at two forms of 'Out of Body' experiences, one called 'Astro Travel' and the other 'Soul Travel' as practiced by Eckankar followers. These are set in motion by Meditation, a finite procedure or in some cultures perhaps a mind altering drug (and I don't mean hot Chocolate).

What I want to discuss now is the 'Experience' one has when suffering from a Near Death Experience (NDE) as the result of an accident or sickness. Typically you are hovering above your body and you see a white light at the end of a tunnel. Traveling toward the tunnel you can feel a "Love" of great proportions and sometimes you are offered a choice of coming back alive or staying there. When you do come back your 'fear' of dying is no longer an issue and Life takes on a new meaning.

The words "Dying To Be Me" is a book title written by Anita Moorjani, describing her life story and finally her experiences in a battle with Cancer so advanced as to be considered incurable. She was born in India and moved to Hong Kong as a baby. The family followed traditional customs for their religion and culture, including the father choosing a husband. This pre-arrangement was not shared by Anita, she wanted to travel the world and choose her husband. Unfortunately her guilt feelings of defying her Father and family customs took a toll on her health. She did choose her husband and took a job in the corporate world which included some traveling. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2002 and in 2006 she was rushed to the hospital in a coma with malignant growths from her neck to her waist and her vital organs were shutting down. She left her body as a result of her 'NDE', hovering above her body, but sensing her brother was flying in a plane over a thousand miles away. Great spiritual and life understanding insights were made known to her and the cause of her Disease was spelled out... GUILT.... Anita was then able to accept her **deceased father's** words that everything was ok and he Loved her. Several hours later she came out of her coma, and doctors immediately tried to find the cancerous growths for immediate treatment. Guess what... not a Single one was detected for she was totally cured!

Quite intelligent and multilingual she could speak 4 languages; English, Cantonese, an Indian dialect and French. Now living in Hong Kong with her husband, Anita is a frequent guest at the University of Hong Kong's department of behavioral sciences, speaking on topics such as dealing with terminal illness , facing death, and the psychology of Spiritual beliefs. And if that's not enough, when not traveling and speaking at conferences, she works as an intercultural consultant for multinational corporations based in the city. I highly recommend the book and there's an internet video of a talk show interview... Stay healthy and let's get together next month.



PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

Core Concept 6

By Kathy Prather

We have been exploring the Ten Core Concepts that are at the heart of the teaching of the Science of Mind. We now turn to Core Concept 6 which has to do with the concept of abundance.

The Universal God is limitless and can never be exhausted or depleted. Being all, God cannot lack for anything. In nature there are uncountable forms of all kinds--snowflakes, wildflowers, trees, grains of sand, fish, birds, stars. If you could ever count them all you would have to start over because there would be new ones to count

Human beings are heir to all the good there is. As humans we can experience infinite abundance as love, money, health, fulfillment or any other form of supply our mind can conceive. But we can experience any form of supply only to the degree that we can accept it, claim it, and embody it. The earth creates enough goods that it could feed all the people in the world if the distribution centers and the political will were there. It's not a lack of food; it's a lack of cooperation and compassion between people.

Because our thought is creative, we are always creating by taking thought. The trick is to learn to focus in on what we want. Remember, a laser is more powerful than regular light because it is focused. The Universe has trouble demonstrating negative focus. For example, "I want to give up a life of inactivity." What does that mean to the Subjective Mind? It is much stronger to say "I accept a life of increased beneficial activity, right now." See how this actually puts a demand upon the creative force? And it always works better to put the emphasis on "NOW". This is the only time actually known in the Universe. The answer actually comes in the NOW, but there may be lag time before it actually becomes a physical reality in your life due to many reasons. Most of these reasons have to do with our acceptance of the good.

I personally visualize the riches of God pouring over each of us like a shower. Each of us chooses how much we can accept. We can take a thimble full or a bucket full. One businessman I knew could visualize God's good as the water coming through a faucet. We decide whether we will turn on the faucet and use it or not. This image made perfect sense to him. In order to use it we need to get aligned with God principles and let the power come through us. If we are not aligned with God principles we are destined to frustration. There has to be balance. The Universe will not remold itself for you.

Some of these God principles are: health, prosperity, beauty, joy, love. Jesus enumerated many principles: It is done unto you as you believe; Do unto others as you would have them do unto you; As you give so you shall receive and many others. Can you think of others?

We all grow up in some kind of social economic strata. We were labeled as wealthy, poor or middle class. It's rather amazing that we hold onto the same expectations of life that we grew up with rather than realizing that anything is possible. Wealthy people grow up knowing that the material world is there for them in abundance and they are confident in expecting that abundance to be in their world and it is.

However, money is not the only marker for abundance. A person can have very little money and still be living an abundant life. Abundance has to do with health, with relationship, with creative expression, with a spiritual life. We get to choose how we define abundance for ourselves. We may need to break out of our shell a bit and look around at what's out there.

Practicing the Presence continued

Take Action

1. Why is it that Lotto winners have a tendency to lose all their new money?
2. You can't actually eat dollar bills. What does the dollar bill represent to you?
3. We often think about an abundance of Peace, of Health, of Joy. But, how about Time? Do we know what to do with it? Do we value it? Also, do we value the air we breathe every minute or value the heart that pumps it through our bodies? We are surrounded by and immersed in abundance. Start by noticing it and being grateful for it. Gratitude is a lovely attitude.
4. Use this affirmation/treatment. "The infinite bounty of Spirit is the birthright of every human. I am a child of God, created as a finite expression of God. Thus, I am heir to all the Good there is simply because of WHO I AM. This boundless supply of Good is my inheritance, now and forever, but I can experience any form of it only to the degree that I believe it is mine, accept it, claim it, and embody it. I can experience this infinite abundance in my life as love, money, talent, fulfillment or any other form of earthly riches that my mind can conceive."*

Thank you, God. And so it is.

* Taken from the Ten Core Concepts from the SOM Classwork.

Spiritual Mind Treatment For February

I know that God is all there is, living in, through, and as every person, form, and situation. God is love, strength, life, prosperity, joy, and peace in every moment.

I am ONE with all that God is. The life, joy, abundance and every attribute of God is mine.

Knowing that this is true, I fully expect and experience a life that brings to me every good thing, every happy situation, all health and all serenity. The love of God soothes me, restores me, and uplifts me in all that I do.

I give thanks to the life that indwells me, bringing me infinite opportunities for joy.

I let this be and so it is. Amen.



"A new light is coming into the world. We are on the borderland of a new experience. The veil between Spirit and matter is very thin. The invisible passes into visibility through our faith in it. A new science, a new religion, and a new philosophy are rapidly being developed. This is in line with the evolution of the great Presence and nothing can hinder its progress."

Dr. Ernest Holmes, *The Science of Mind*, page 60

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Office Hours
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