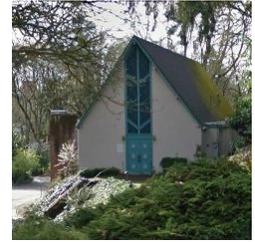


Woodland Chapel's



Joyful News



April 2013 - Volume XIV, No. 4

First Church of Religious Science

Rev. Mary Midkiff, Senior Minister

Hello! We're now into spring and fully engaged with our new word for the year: commitment.

January first, of course, is a logical time for new commitments but, based on the number of failed resolutions, I think spring is even better.

In spring the whole world seems to back us. There's energy and new life flowing through every speck and form. Everything seems to hum and pulsate. What better time to plant a new seed in your own life? Over several Sunday mornings we looked at our working definition for commitment: our focusing and channeling of God's mind, heart, love, and power for any cause. It is "ours" because it is up to us to decide and to do; it is "focused" because we have to know what to release and what to retain; it is "channeled" because we open a pathway for God to manifest in the world living through and as us; it is all of these attributes (and more) of God because whatever we need is provided to us through God; and it is for "any cause" because whatever you want to be committed to is for everyone's higher and greater good as we are all connected.

What is it in your life that you want to commit to? Here's a hint: it is that thing that will not let you go! It nags you. It is consistently there, running through your life as a theme. It calls your name, sometimes as a whisper, sometimes as a booming voice (or as a booming two by four hitting you between the eyes!). Once you define it for yourself and commit to it, your next step is to make sure it is connected to the greater good of all. That may seem like a daunting task since we often focus on our own "narrow" concerns and don't feel at all altruistic. Luckily for us, no concern is "narrow"! Each time we think, we are using our individualized portion of the mind of God which automatically, then, links us to every other form. So our concerns and commitments always affect others. The trick, then, is to become aware of exactly how we are doing it and to make the choice for it to be positive and life affirming.



For instance, it may seem completely selfish, even shallow to some, to be committed to getting a new car. But what happens when you do that? You are a source of good to that car dealer, the repair shop, the manufacturer, even the financing institution. You are also opening yourself up to greater freedom and convenience and even joy if you particularly love cars as an art form. (And many people do.) With greater freedom and convenience you may be a happier person, perhaps a more reliable one to your employer! That car may allow you to get out and about and interact more with the world and who knows what that can lead to.

Take advantage of this growing time of the year to inspire you. Be careful of the people you surround yourself with: are they encouraging and supportive? If not, share your commitment only with those who are. Keep an open line back to Spirit on a daily basis; ask for whatever you need and give thanks for all that you have received. Observe what happens and give praise for even the smallest step in the right direction. (Whatever we praise and focus upon, that's what grows.) In my commitment to recovering from knee surgery and becoming physically fit, I've informed my prayer partner (with breathless excitement!) when I've at last walked up the stairs one foot following the other or when I was finally able to use my legs instead of my hands to push the recliner foot rest down! (You now see why our prayer partners are to be cherished and why it can be taxing for them to care about such minutiae, but they do!)

Our Ministry of Prayer (of which I am a part) stands ready to share your commitments with you. We look forward to sharing your adventure. I get excited being around people who are stepping out there, creating something in the world, changing something, growing something. Call us or e-mail or even come in and talk (what a radical idea!). We really are all connected. Your greater good is our greater good. One good at a time, the world is transformed!

Happy growing season! ☺

**Woodland Chapel Celebrates
Joy! In One Spirit, One Life, One World!**

Woodland Chapel
The Church of Joy!

Ministry of Prayer

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

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

Practitioners in Training

Christie Joachim
Mary Fox

Applause

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

...Dick Walker for taking such good care of our building every day and for providing the Cross for our Easter Blossoming Cross ceremony.

...the Salem Police Department for partnering with us and the community we both love and serve. The security of God comes to us through many channels and this is one.

...all the groups who share our space with us: four AA groups, OA, yoga, River Sangha, the Willamette Valley Mushroom Society, and our meditation groups. We love your presence and energy in our building and the opportunity to be of service to the greater community.

...The Women of Woodland Chapel Service Group for all the good they provide the Chapel throughout the year, most recently for the Easter lilies that graced our altar.



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.

April 7

Rev. Maur Horton

April 14 - Taize Service

Caleen Thorsen, RScP

April 21

Christie Joachim

April 28

Kathy Prather, RScP



MUSIC



April 7

Kathleen Walter and Matt Sazima

April 14 - Taize Service

Kathleen Walter and Doc Fleetwood

April 21

Kathleen Walter and Christine Elder

April 28

Kathleen Walter and Choir (Joyful Singers)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Vicky Heffner ..	April 7
Wesley Cobb ..	April 11
Dan Scarl ..	April 16
Bill Gordon ..	April 18
Robert Mundt ..	April 24
Mary Ann Fanyak ..	April 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.



Community Matters

The next Community Matters committee meeting is Thursday, April 28 at 1:00pm. Meetings will be held regularly to plan future events for 2013. The dates and times will be announced in church, in this monthly newsletter, and on Woodland Chapel's [website](#). Come join this fun, stimulating committee. Contact Christie Joachim at (503) 585-6247 or email her at elanvitale@q.com to get more information.





God Is a Renewable Energy Resource

By Joan Hunt



I LIVE IN the beautiful Oregon Coast Range, where fir trees abound. Here they are considered a renewable resource and are replanted as fast as they are cut down. The earth provides us with many such resources — if we don't abuse them.

As I was thinking about ecology and renewable resources, it flashed into my mind that humans also have a renewable resource, one that is not subject to nature's destructive forces or to the whims of mankind — the spirit of God within. It is always there for us to call upon. God is energy — a renewable resource of energy — no matter how many times it is used, abused, or forgotten, it can't be depleted. We have but to still our restless minds for a moment and we can find that energy — the light of God within our consciousness. Now it has become an affirmation to me: *God is my renewable energy resource.* 🌍

Looking for Your Favorite Book?



Looking for your favorite book or author? Look no further than the Woodland Chapel Bookstore. When you order books through our bookstore the library receives a percentage of the cover price. We use this money to purchase new and relevant books to add to our already wonderful collection. So you are not only getting your favorite book by your favorite author, but you are also supporting our bookstore/library. The next time you decide to order a book from Amazon, STOP and ask yourself; "Can I order this book through the Woodland Chapel Bookstore? YES, I can!" Thank You, God! 🌍



From The Women of Woodland Chapel

A Special Treat

We are inviting everyone, that is women and men, to come and have lunch with us. You bring your lunch and we will take care of the coffee or tea and a piece of cake. Rev. Maur Horton will be joining us to talk about his wonderful trip to Africa and show us pictures. We look forward to seeing you. 🌍

When: Thursday the 11th of April at 12 noon.

Where: The Fireside Room



Les is More

Learning

Dr. Lester Petrie

It's a long, sometimes tedious process, but *learn* we must. To *understand* ... that's voluntary, and requires more time. When it comes to the mentality aspect of *Anthropolosophy*, we open (not just a can, but) a whole "bucket of worms." We could go into great depth to elaborate scientifically on the subject, but to keep it low-tech, let's not.

To keep it simple, let's just point out an elementary progression. Each person is a microcosm of the macrocosm of mankind overall. In the very early stages of our development, our left brain is not yet capable of fulfilling its ultimate purpose. It has not yet learned to think constructively; it has not yet connected with consciousness. Only our right brain can function *naturally*, and not very well at that.

By nature, or instinctively, the brain is capable of absorbing and aping. Ape and "copy cat" . . . that's all it can do, and then only minimally. As it develops the ability to remember (even slightly), it increases the ability to further ape and "copy cat." As Andy Rooney would say, "I like that ape and 'copy cat.'" It has a certain ring to it . . . and it describes a function in a better, more colloquial way than to simply say *mimic*.

To return to what this article is about: *learning*. It comes about in various ways, increasing at various rates, and culminating in various degrees. Some people have a tendency to let their ego get in the way when it comes to attaining higher spiritual understanding. They become satisfied that they have advanced beyond the average person. This is called "spiritual pride." They fail to realize that no matter how *much* they know, how much *more* there is to learn.

There are about seven degrees or levels to this subject:

- (1) We learn to ape and "copy cat."
- (2) We recognize. Some things are familiar to us; we *know* a little something.
- (3) We realize certain facts and features.
- (4) As we continue this learning process, we become what is referred to as "knowledgeable." This in itself is helpful for getting along in the world, but there is still a long way to go, a lot more to be gained mentally. To me, it seems like we're all just beginning because . . .
- (5) Before "knowledgeable," we need to insert motor skills . . . how to engage the left brain hemisphere, to coordinate voluntary body or physical activity.
- (6) Then, somewhere else along the line, we need to learn how to think creatively.
- (7) Finally a smidgen of *understanding* arrives . . . but only for some. There are many who get off the path of progressive thinking, long before "pulling into the station." Some lack the incentive to continue learning; some feel more comfortable expending less effort than required and don't activate their left brains adequately. It is much easier to simply believe than to study and learn. Those of the latter type are usually very conservative in lifestyle, both mentally and in attitude. Then, there are those (described above) who *think* they're already in the "upper bracket."

You, who are reading this, are fortunate to be a more progressive thinker . . . wanting and experiencing the more liberal, adventuring, inquiring left-brain activity . . . tending toward full mental, emotional, and functional integration. If this were not so, you would likely have put this aside, long before arriving at this point. ☺

From Here To Infinity

By Robert TenEyck

As Promised we will look at enhancing our Immune system and alternate medicine, plus I'll throw in a Miracle Cure. I want to share a story about "Lourdes" as presented in the 'Canadian Medical Association Journal'. Vittorio Micheli is our subject, an Italian, born in 1940. He was inducted into the army, and shortly after complained of pain in the 'left ischium' (the pelvic area supporting one's weight). X-ray investigation confirmed a case of Sarcoma (primary bone cancer of the left pelvis). He had a cast from hip to toe. Irradiation treatment was of no value and chemo therapy was discontinued after two months. The femur eventually lost connection with the pelvis. About a year later he decided to go to "Lourdes". At this point Vittorio was in severe pain, could no longer stand, had loss of appetite and digestive problems.

Wearing a cast Micheli plunged into the bath. Immediately he felt hungry (a typical reaction in the bath) and he felt well, with the thought his left leg had reattached itself. The doctors wouldn't believe him and kept the Cast on. Three months later radiographs showed the sarcoma had regressed and the Pelvic bone was regenerating. He now works in a factory, Standing eight to ten hours a day.

It appears that if one's belief is strong enough, there is **no limit** to what can be accomplished. Then there is the Placebo effect, an example of Healing elicited by the Mind. Recently there have been many (well three anyway) true stories of people who have had 'near death experiences' and come back totally healed of in-curable diseases. It is somewhat unclear what had transpired, but forgiving themselves of destructive **guilt** feelings, being told to return to life to **finish** their 'mission', and knowing that 'After Life' is warm and fuzzy with a knowledge of **oneness** throughout the Universe, appears to be prominent in their experience. I wonder what part 'Belief' plays in Bio feedback, Homeopathy, Acupuncture, Reiki (laying on of hands and directing the 'life force'), Yoga, Chiropractic manipulation and Affirmative and Religious Prayer (Remember the Mustard Seed).

Positive Thinking and the Law of Attraction are all Big players in the world of Healing. In the book "The Secret" there are many tales told, such as Norman Cousins – victim of an incurable disease- totally healed by looking at Funny Videos (you've heard 'laughter is the best medicine). The author of "The Secret" was wearing reading glasses for three years. One evening while tracing the history of the secret back through the ages, she reached for her glasses, WAIT she thought, I can't believe that age diminishes eye sight, so she visualized reading in dark rooms and started giving thanks for her clear vision. In three days she had perfect eye sight and now doesn't own a pair of glasses. The most amazing story tells of a gentleman by the name of Morris Goodman. He crashed his airplane in March, surviving, although completely paralyzed with a broken second and third cervical vertebrae and a crushed diaphragm. He could not breathe and could only move his eyes. His 'ace in the hole' was his Mind , so he thought breathe deeply – breathe deeply- and the respirator was removed. And then he set a goal of walking out of the hospital on Christmas day. And ... Yes ... there is a video of him walking out of the hospital on Christmas day. And to refresh your memory 'Your reality becomes what you think and say.'

There are also some interesting arm bands available to help things like Dizziness (called anti-nausea wrist bands) and a necklace to attenuate harmful electromagnetic energy (radio waves and radiation). I will end with a 'honey' of a way to stimulate the Immune System. Called bee sting therapy, apitherapists hold bees with tweezers and apply directly to areas. The venom is a mixture of bio-active compounds providing anti-inflammatory effects. And lest I forget, 150 years ago it was known that applying an external Voltage to a wound (bone, skin, bed sores etc.) healing can be accelerated. Stay healthy, think positive, don't get stung, eat your veggies, avoid electrical shocks, and wear your wrist bands and necklaces. 🐝



PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

Core Concept 8

By Kathy Prather



We need to perceive ourselves as whole before we can heal ourselves or others. Before we conceive ourselves as whole we need to be at peace in our relationships with others. In order to be at peace with others we need to be able to forgive them. Core Concept eight deals with forgiveness.

In the Bible Jesus says we must go and make peace with others before we can lay our sacrifice on the altar (or be purified). As in so many of his teachings Jesus is stating good psychology as well as Spiritual Principle. "It is essential that we wholly forgive ourselves and all others before real spiritual growth can flourish."*

In the Seminar Lectures, by Ernest Holmes he states "Where there is an emotional bias there is an intellectual blind spot..." This is why being unwilling to forgive hurts us more than it hurts the one we can not forgive. As long as we have an emotional bias we will have an intellectual blind spot; we will not be able to understand or think clearly. Our judgment will be clouded because of the hate we feel. We cannot perceive ourselves to be whole when there is a cloud covering our conscious mind.

This does not mean we must allow others to walk all over us or to invade our boundaries. We may need to cut off contact with that person--but it can be done calmly without rancor. Sometimes we may just have to cool off enough to be rational.

God has never forgiven us because God has never judged us. It is up to us to go and do likewise. It is in the judging of others that we err. We forgive for ourselves. We let go of fear. ☹

* Taken from the SOM class work on the Ten Core Concepts.

Take Action!

Is there someone you cannot forgive in your heart? Can you open yourself up to the possibility that you could have a healing? Can you give up the idea of the rightness of your cause?

"Principles of Financial Freedom"

What: Principles of Financial Freedom

When: Mondays, starting April 15, 2013 (8 weeks) 5:30-7:30 pm

Instructor: Rev. Mary Midkiff

Cost: \$110 (includes workbook) (Payments OK!)

More information at www.woodlandchapsaleam.wordpress.com or call the office at 503 362-4139

Our Vision

Woodland Chapel Celebrates
Joy! In One Spirit, One Life, One World!



Our Mission

Woodland Chapel promotes Spirit-centered living by teaching principles that heal the mind and body, expand prosperity, and nurture relationships in an inclusive, joyous community.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

10:30am Meditation – led by a Practitioner – Sanctuary
11:00am Worship Service – Sanctuary
11:00am Sunday School – Classrooms

Upcoming Workshop at Woodland Chapel



Bringing Heaven to Earth: Exploring the Kingdoms of Consciousness

Facilitated by Rev. Christine Green

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We can be pulled in so many directions every day. When we are not grounded in principle we can be floating in confusion. How do we stay connected with our inner wisdom on our spiritual journey? See detail of this upcoming workshop on our website.

www.woodlandchapelsalem.wordpress.com

**We are planning our summer barbecue. Are you willing to bring your grill?
Please let Christie or Caleen know. THANKS!**

WOODLAND CHAPEL

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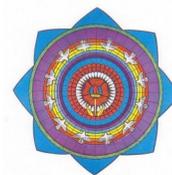
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successfuldesigns@gmail.com



OFFICE HOURS

Mondays – 9:00-2:00
 Thursdays – 9:00-2:00
 Closed Tuesday, Wednesday,
 Friday, and Saturday

All article and event submissions for next month's issue are due the third Sunday of this month. Articles should be typed and double spaced. Leave your article in the Newsletter Editor's mail slot to the right of the church office door or email your article to:

successfuldesigns@gmail.com

Wills and Bequests

Deciding where you want your property to go after your transition is simply a prudent course of action. Among the choices you can make is the choice to help the church by making sure that some portion of your property goes to Woodland Chapel.

Through their wills and estate plans, friends and members of Woodland Chapel have given the church bequests of money, land, and other property. Some of the gifts have been small, some large, and all were appreciated and helpful to the church. It is relatively easy to help Woodland Chapel in this way. The simplest way is to name Woodland Chapel as a beneficiary in a will. If you prefer, you can make a gift right now as part of your estate planning. You will want to consult an attorney to plan these gifts.

Spiritual Mind Treatment

For
April, 2013

I know that God is the One Power, One Love, and One Source of all. Whatever I encounter is some form or face of God.

I am ONE with all that God is; I am ONE with all that God has. I know that I am ONE with all that God does living through and as me.

Knowing these truths, I now embody them, letting the power of God create the life that I would most want to have. The power of God is all that is necessary to move aside any appearance of resistance to my greater good. The love of God nurtures and sustains me, filling me with joy and peace, moving me into a place of complete contentment. God, as the Source of all, provides me abundantly and consistently with every good thing necessary to enjoy life, participate in life, and give back to life all the good that has been so graciously received.

I give thanks to this One Source that lives as my life in the world. All my blessings come from this loving power and I see it channeled through everyone I meet.

I joyfully release any and all concerns knowing that my creative thoughts go out into a loving Universe that always says yes. I let that be and so it is. Amen.



Let all that you do be done with love.
1 Corinthians 16:14

Woodland Chapel
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503-362-4139
Office Hours
(Minister in Office)
Mondays: 9:00-2:00 pm
Thursdays: 9:00-2:00 pm

We don't want to be your
junk mail.

If you wish to be removed from
the mailing list, please check
the box below and put just the
half sheet in an envelope and
mail it back to us.

Thank you.

