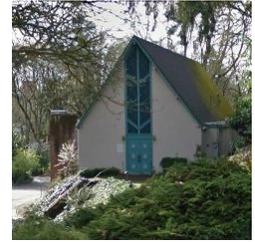


Woodland Chapel's



Joyful News



December 2013 - Volume XIV, No. 12

First Church of Religious Science

Rev. Maur Horton, Senior Minister

My dear friends,

I am filled with joy as we approach Christmas. Advent has begun. Our preparations to celebrate our Candlelight service together on Friday evening, December 20, are underway. Be sure to invite your family and friends to this extraordinary, traditional yet deeply spiritual experience.



Talk about a Christmas gift! One of the greatest possible blessings occurred for me when you elected me to be your senior minister. Just the thought of being your minister lifts my spirit and fills my heart with gratitude. This is the fulfillment of a life-long dream, an aspiration to be of service to others in Spirit. I know every occupation is a type of ministry. We all serve Spirit for we are all in Spirit. That is absolutely one of the fundamental truths of our teachings and I have lived it in every occupation so far. Your formal call to be there for you, to hold the precious consciousness of our oneness, to stand ready to guide and comfort, to just be here for you brings a new dimension of service into my life. Thank you.

The other day I stood in my garden. Raspberries and blue berries bare boned spoke of spring's leaves and summer's fruit now gone. A few leaves clung to the grape vine. The tomato plants, zucchini, and squash were already taken away leaving open earth. Green strawberry plants, though without white blossoms and red fruit, still gave promise of next season's growth. As I stood in my garden, the Christmas season came to mind.

The timing of Christmas arises from our ancestors' experience of nature. The bright light and warmth of summer and the glow of Indian summer are past. The light of the sun is dimmed by winter's almost unbroken clouds. Night advances patiently into the day. Many wake in darkness and return home in the dark. But we

know that darkness is not triumphant. We know that light once again resumes its advance.

The Christmas event arises out of faith in the light of the world. We are a people of the light. We know that there is One Mind, One Life, and One Light. The One enfolds each of us in its love. We celebrate the incarnation of this light in Jesus the Christ and in each one of us.

This is the ultimate gift. We become the light. We stand that light in the highest place in our consciousness. From there it warms all our relationships with love and brightens the entire universe. Our families, friends and acquaintances experience the joy emanating from our conscious oneness with the light. This is how we serve.

Enjoy the anticipation of Christmas, the reality of its many gifts and the joy of living uniquely as yourself in community with your family, your friends, and your church. Come celebrate your unique light with us. All are welcome!

Namaste, Rev Maur

Some Additional Thoughts

Family visits especially with grandchildren are taking on an even more festive flair.

We have heard it said so frequently that it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. We will do precisely that when on December 20 we individually light our candles, spreading the light from one Christ candle out into the whole congregation.

You see, by becoming aware of the light of God's Holy Spirit that dwells within, we serve ourselves and everyone we meet. Our personal ministry is the best possible gift for this or any season. We live in the light of God. We are aware of the presence and the power which is God. The Love of God enfolds me. The Light of God illumines me. The Power of God protects me. All is well. ☸

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 Maur Horton

Reverend Don Kerr

Practitioner Kathy Prather

Practitioner Connie Walker

Applause

Applause goes to **Dick Walker** for donating a lovely office copier. YEAH!!!

To **Gwyn Myer** for investigating the health of our solarium plants.

To **Ruth Tenyk** for designing and sewing the new drapes for the altar area.

To **Candy Willimann** for hosting Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day at the Chapel.

To **Cathy Daniels, Pearl Georgan, and Dick Walker** who helped tabulate the congregation vote.

To the **Women of Woodland Chapel** who over the past few years have donated to the Chapel: a new stove, new chairs for the Fireside Room, new rolling chairs for the Library, and they will be providing some new Christmas decorations for the Sanctuary this year.



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.

December 1

Dick Walker

December 8

Rev. Don Kerr

December 15

Kathy Prather, RScP

December 22

Connie Walker, RScP

December 29

Rev. Maur Horton



MUSIC



December 1

Christine Elder and Kathleen Walter

December 8

Matt Sazima and Kathleen Walter

December 15

Christine and Rob Elder

December 22

Kathleen Walter, Karen Hansson, and the Joyful Singers

December 29

Matt Sazima and Kathleen Walter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lester Petrie .. December 6
Kim Gorski .. December 10
Carol Hottle .. December 27
Robyn Shelby.. December 27
Sherlee Cave .. December 28



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 SERMONS

December 1

Christine Elder
Only Joy: The Divine Bliss of Pure, Neutral Experience - An Infinite Being's Guide to the Holiday Season

December 8

Rev. Sonia Miller
Harness The Power Of Your Emotions In Times of Change

December 15

Rev. Don Kerr
Self-referral or Object-referral?

December 22

Rev. Maur Horton
The Gift of Christmas, bringing it all together in Spirit

December 29

Pearl Georgan
Peace and How to Attain It



PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

By Kathy Prather



The name of this column is Practicing the Presence...but since it is December perhaps it should be called Practicing the Presents. We could see everyone as a Christmas present. In December we have the wonderful opportunity to meld our secular and sacred lives in a very visible way. So let's get set to envision a lovely Christmas.

When I was younger and we were raising two boys I was led to a book called Unplug the Christmas Machine. It had suggestions for simplifying the Christmas season including gift giving. I implemented a few of them and tried from that time forward to simplify the holidays. It has always been a difficult time for me in part because we live far away from any relatives.

But, we do have the best wishes of our relations. And I do have a husband who cooks dinner very capably. I have two wonderful sons who have grown up to be caring adults. Even with all of that by the time I arrive at Christmas Day, I am ready to take a deep healing nap in the afternoon. From there I am ready to shift into a more upbeat look at the future.

Last November Rev. Christine Green gave Woodland Chapel a workshop on Revealing the Heart of the Holidays. I found her ideas to be helpful and I felt energized and ready for a New Year. These are a few ideas from her.

Our purpose is an awareness of Oneness that blesses our lives. Our Vision is revealing the wholeness of the Holidays. Our intention is to come into a fuller realization of the divinity that is within us. And our intention is to develop a deeper understanding of the meaning and mystery of Christmas.

What we want at heart is connectedness

- ◆ Want to Feel more Connected? Turn to God.
- ◆ Want more Time? Share your Time
- ◆ Want more Love? Share your Love.
- ◆ Want more Relationship? Share Yourself.

Money is also a relationship. To believe in lack is to believe in Separateness. Food is a celebration; be sure you are filled up emotionally. Do you need to lovingly set boundaries with family or friends?

Green says that it is all about light and uncovering the light that already is. A good bible verse is "I have come into the world as the light, so that whoever believes in me may not have darkness" John 12:46. And you can say to yourself "I am the Christ in Christmas."

One good exercise is to create a list of Secular Christmas and a list of Sacred Christmas. On the Secular list you can write "Christmas is _____(good food, family, gifts, decorating, etc.)" On the Sacred Christmas list you can write "I am _____(deeply connected, filled to capacity, surrounded by love, infinitely creative, etc.)"

Also from Christine: *Five Steps to Reveal Love at Christmas*

- ◆ Schedule time to be Silent; life is so busy this time of year.
- ◆ Forgive others; Resentment, anger and hurt keep us separate from love.
- ◆ Reach out to someone else; Invite a friend to coffee.
- ◆ Create new memories; We can't bring back the past.
- ◆ Speak words of gratitude; try it and watch the blessings unfold.

So I wish you all the best and brightest of Christmas. Enjoy this holy time of year. I am glad you are part of my world. ☺



Speaking of Speakers December 2013



December 1: *Christine Elder*

December 8: *Rev. Sonia Miller* was ordained in June of 2006 through the Divine Mother Community here in Salem. She is an Amazon.com best-selling author of "The Attraction Distraction: Why the Law of Attraction Isn't Working for You and How to Get Results- Finally!" Sonia M. Miller has helped seekers around the world to realize their greatest aspirations since 1983. By sharing her expertise as an international life coach, teacher, speaker and minister, seekers discover how to reclaim their true nature as the Ultimate Manifestors of their lives! Rev Sonia is sometimes called "the Priestess of Possibility."

December 15: *Rev. Don Kerr*

December 22: *Rev. Maur Horton*

December 29: *Pearl Georgen* is a professional mediator. She also has taught mediation to thousands of students. She has joined our congregation from Southern California. She says her motivation is to use her God given talents to help others and to do all that she can to minimize their pain in that microcosm of life we find ourselves in. She says, "I work towards becoming the absolute best person I can be in the process of going forward and making a difference on this earth and in this lifetime." As a mediator she does private mediations including litigated and non-litigated matters. She serves on several panels including the Los Angeles Superior Court, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and California State Insurance Program. 🌍

What's Happening

The members of Woodland Chapel met on November 10 and made two important decisions. By a large majority the congregation voted to affiliate with the Centers for Spiritual Living and elect Rev Maur Horton as its Senior Minister. Several members of the congregation commented that they feel a renewed sense of purpose and a new vision emerging of what Woodland Chapel is and can become. One stated it this way: "the Chapel is becoming an ever more perfect embodiment of the love of God right here in Salem."

The board of Trustees met right after the congregational meeting and decided to move ahead on several fronts. The Board elected Candy Willimann as Vice-President and appointed Cathy Daniels and Nadine Heusser to fill the two vacant positions on the board. The board voted for the Chapel to pay initial and annual fees for its ministers and practitioners to affiliate with the Centers for Spiritual Living.

In other actions, the board:

- Tasked Cathy Daniels and Rev Maur to start the Phase One application process with the Centers for Spiritual Living. They have since met, identified the key tasks that must be completed and set tentative dates for completion.
- Appointed Rev. Maur Horton, Dick Walker, Candy Willimann, Cathy Daniels and, upon her agreement, Pat Spece to a committee to draw up a contract for the Senior Minister. This committee met and agreed on key terms of the contract. They are scheduled to meet again on December 4 to hopefully finalize the contract and get it ready to present to the December 8 board meeting. The Centers for Spiritual Living often refer to this contract as a "letter of call" and expect to see it among documents submitted with our application.
- Acknowledged that Dick Walker is reviewing the bylaws to identify any areas that need revision. He reports that so far changes of names and titles are the biggest items.
- Asked Rosa Cruz and Cathy Daniels to set up the "tree of giving" program and decorations for the Christmas tree.

The chapel office will open as usual on Wednesdays and Thursdays in December except for December 25 and 26 when it will be closed.

The Candle Lighting Service is scheduled for Friday, December 20, at 7:00 pm. This year we will celebrate with readings from the gospels, music from Handel's Messiah, other songs and hymns and, of course, our traditional candle lighting. This will be a moving, joyful celebration. It is a good time to invite family and friends to join you at the Chapel. The Statesman Journal will be receiving announcements. 🌍



From Here To Infinity

By Robert TenEyck

De Greatest



I was Chief Engineer at Ampeg guitar and amplifier company in 1964, when a famous Jazz Violin player 'Stuff Smith' walked into our showroom to have a microphone installed in his Violin. At the time Richy, a famous Jazz accordionist was in charge of the showroom. The two had never met each other. After a 'bit' Richy took his Accordion out of his case, and Stuff Smith opened his case and out came the Violin. They didn't say Let's play, they just 'muscle memory' grabbed their instruments and began to play. Luckily I was in the showroom and witnessed these two great musicians talking through notes like you have never heard before. Back and forth and together they bantered until "Stuff", with sweat pouring down his face, ran across the room, hugged Richy and said: "Man, youse is de Greatest!" I will never forget that.

A special treat was witnessed by millions on May 21, 1992. At this time Johnny Carson had announced his retirement and had Bette Midler as a special guest. She talked Johnny into singing a duet of a ballad called "Here's that rainy day", made famous by Jimmy van Heusen. She followed this song by singing a Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen moody ballad called "One for My Baby (And One for the Road)"... Yes, it was a 'rainy' evening of tear ducts.

So far we have looked at single musical events. Now let's look at unending re-creations of great music. There are many outstanding composers, one in particular gets special attention so I will print comments by famous musical people. The composer, of course, the great W.A. Mozart. Could you visualize a composer so great as to test the English language for explanations of his genius creations in ALL of his many compositions? Albert Einstein said "Mozart is the greatest composer of all. Beethoven created his music, but the music of Mozart is of such purity and beauty that one feels he merely found it- that it has always existed as part of the inner beauty of the Universe waiting to be revealed." Phil Goulding wrote "In Mozart's music, all intensity are crystallized in the clearest, the most beautifully balanced and proportioned, and altogether flawless musical forms." Mozart is Happiness before it has gotten defined." So says Arthur Miller. George Solti was amazed also, saying "Mozart makes you believe in God because it cannot be by chance that such a phenomenon arrives into this world and leaves such an unbounded number of unparalleled masterpieces."

Tschaikovsky even went so far, as to say "Mozart is the musical Christ." W.J. Turner explains "Mozart's mental grip never loosens; he never abandons himself to any one sense; even the most ecstatic moments his mind is vigorous, alert, and on the wing. He dives unerringly on to his finest ideas like a bird of prey, and once an idea is seized he soars off again with an undiminished power." WOW, enough said, next step, a bumper sticker that says " Honk if you love Mozart." 🚗

Les is More

CUT WOOD AND CARRY WATER

Lester Petrie

Some (maybe most) people have the mis-perception that for one to be on the path of spiritual enlightenment, or self knowledge, that that one must sit quietly, cross-legged, with the thumb and first two fingertips forming a circle, with the hands resting on their knees, while sounding "OM" (or some mysterious chant, in a foreign language). Or they may envision a whirling dervish spinning incessantly, with a flute and gong accompanying him.

They fail to realize that ordinary people, doing ordinary things, can also be dedicated to spiritual awakening, and self realization. After all, being in the image and likeness of God, and God being spirit, we then, as spiritual beings, must always be doing "spiritual" things - - - no matter how physical, material, mundane and worldly they may appear to be.

There is a familiar saying among those who are "on the spiritual path"; that we must also "cut wood and carry water". Meaning that we must take care of the mundane, day-to-day needs and chores. And to do these things , does it necessitate taking a break from our spiritual pursuits? Not at all! They are an integral part of our being and doing. We cannot just fall off the face of the earth and fly off somewhere into space. No matter how "spiritual" our practices may be, they are done in the flesh, right here, on planet earth.

If we were to follow the instruction of the Apostle Paul (the main author of the New Testament) in his first letter to the Thessalonians (chapter 5, verse 17) where he instructed them to "Pray without ceasing", that is exactly what we would be doing, no matter what activity we may be involved in - - - when, or where.

By continually being cognizant of our spiritual intentions, whether we're digging in the garden, cleaning out the gutters on the house, or whatever activity, we would be in a prayerful mental attitude, and this would make it another step forward, on our pathway to spiritual enlightenment, or realization. Buddhists would refer to this state of mind as "mindfulness". In a more western vernacular, it would be called "awareness" - - - and maybe even, "bliss".

This prayerful mental attitude holds true for anyone in a convent, a monastery, a temple or an Ashram - - - in all these environments there is always "wood to cut and water to carry". In the Northwest Ashram, near Bellingham, WA, in the 1960's, this was more than simply a slogan, or catch-phrase. It was literally a part of the daily tasks (until running water became a blessed reality) - - - no more filling a water tank atop a building next to the main lodge. Wood? It wouldn't be surprising if they are still cutting wood, for heating and cooking.

"Cut wood and carry water", we were made note of, whether enlarging the chicken coop, building goat shed, adding on to the porch and front steps, putting down carpet, or making benches for classrooms, there was a mindfulness of spirituality. Kitchen duty always had meditation music being played in the background. No matter what chores, projects or activities were taking place, we were always "being about the Fathers business" - - - just "cutting wood and carrying water".

So it is, with whoever it is, in whatever activity or endeavor, to keep in mind a prayerful attitude. This makes any task (no matter how small, or "low" it may seem) a part of what we are all about - - - adding a bit towards the "completion of God's creation"

In Science of Mind we are constantly being reminded of this truth. And so, it is! 🌍

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 Junior Church – Classrooms

Junior Church

All children are always welcome in our Junior Church! For the month of December, the theme will continue to be "Peace Around the World" with a number of fun games and projects to do around that topic that will introduce elements of geography, world religions, and cultures in a fun way. Candy Willimann and Heather Terhune, welcome you!



WOODLAND CHAPEL

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Ministerial Staff

Rev. Maur Horton Senior Minister
Rev. Don Kerr Assistant Minister

Board of Trustees

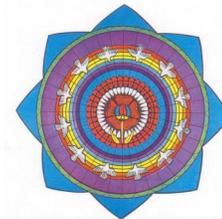
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Lisa Guillén Associate Editor
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Rose Dawn Window

OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays – 10:00-2:00
Thursdays – 10:00-2:00
Closed Monday, Tuesday,
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

December 2013

Rejoice and Be Glad!

There is an Infinite Energy that supports and permeates all that is. It is known by many names: Joy, Love and God Itself. God's joy, love and energy are at the heart of my awareness, eternally born at the center of my being. I feel Divine healing energy permeating my entire being. I see Divine Love embracing and supporting every being everywhere, especially my church and everyone in it. Rejoice and be glad for this is the day the Lord has made. With gratitude in my heart, I let go and let it be so.



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)
 Wednesdays: 10:00-2:00 pm
 Thursdays: 10:00-2:00 pm

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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.

