

## A Message From Reverend Bill Graves On the State of the Ministry

I have been with you for over a year now and it seems good to offer some reflections upon how I am thinking and feeling about my role as your minister, serving as I am in a consulting capacity. That means my service is pursuant to a contract (in my case until June 30, 2012) with the TUUC Board of Trustees, as opposed to a “called” status, which occurs only from congregational vote.

Whatever trepidations I may have started with, and whatever the future may hold, one thing is certain: I have always felt firmly held by a culture of affirmation and support at TUUC. I have felt embraced by a community of love both in the giving and the receiving.

As for myself I am delighted to feel that I continue to grow and learn beneath my balding pate. From rookie humility—bordering upon insecurity--I have lately began to feel rather comfortably “ministerial.” I sense I am serving a congregation that is likewise starting to feel a self-confidence and vigor that will build upon itself. And, I have a year’s worth of accumulated insights into what makes TUUC tick. I have a staff to partner with at TUUC that is in the realm of ministerial dreams.

In spite of such superlatives my discernment about what I hoped for my future ministry with you has been intense over the last several months. I am indebted to my spiritual director for guidance. I was aware that the board would and should be looking for some resolution of the “ministerial issue” well in advance of the end of my contract. Here is essentially the outcome of my discernment that I disclosed to the board at its retreat in January: it is my desire (utterly supported by my spouse, Frances) to serve so long as I am able and if it is the mandate and best interests of the congregation. My objectivity as to the latter part of the equation is questionable. Fortunately, I understand the board will soon be embarking upon a very deliberate process of discernment (there’s that word again!) with the congregation on these issues.

It all comes down, as it should in our faith, to the will of the congregation. Whatever period of time Frances and I have left with you, we shall be grateful.

May the spirit of Universal Love guide us,

--Reverend Bill

## News from the Healthy Congregations Implementation Team

As we start this new year, we thought it might be helpful to review our progress to date. As many of you may remember, in the spring of 2010 we received a report with recommendations from the PNWD Healthy Congregations Team. Their recommendations were divided into three areas: healthy relationship, leadership, and vision and mission. Since we have received that report many new groups have formed and many new processes have been set in place. We want to lift up some recent actions for your celebration in this column.

**Dreamcasting** - The report includes this commentary: “A church is where diverse people step out of daily routines to refine convictions, to live out commitments, to deal with ultimate concerns, and to seek the holy, however that is experienced. Church provides the space in \_\_\_\_\_ [continued on page 4]

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## Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1115 South 56th Street Tacoma, WA 98408

(253) 474-4646 ❖ <http://tuuc-wa.org>

Office: [admin@tuuc-wa.org](mailto:admin@tuuc-wa.org) Publications: [editor@tuuc-wa.org](mailto:editor@tuuc-wa.org)

### *Ministers / Staff*

Consulting Minister:	Rev. Bill Graves
Community Minister:	Rev. Jim Anderson
Dir. of Religious Exploration:	Lori Fernholz-Hartman
Youth Director:	Anne-Marie Davidson
Program Coordinator:	Susie Maharry
Music Director:	Rafe Wadleigh
Administrator:	Michael Field
Publications:	James Venturini

### *2012 Board of Trustees Members*

Church President:	Jack Bregger
Church Vice President:	Susan Tusa
Church Secretary:	Rob Ramsey
Church Treasurer:	Dick Coulter
Trustees:	Susan Dye, Steven Garrett, Chris Lawson, Richard Rhine

### *Program Area Representatives*

Religious Exploration:	Jennifer Johnston
Business and Communications:	Heather Kindem
Worship and Celebration:	Janee Cox
Facilities Use and Management:	David Cerny
Membership and Ministry:	Maryellen Martinez
Social Justice/Just Peacemaking:	Vacant

### *Lay Pastoral Care Team*

Chair: Barb Lutzewitz    Members: Connie Andersen,  
Joan Benderson, Rob Ramsey, Bruce Rowan, and Loretta  
Skochenko-Dhaese



*The Dialog* is published ten times per year and is sent to all TUUC contributors. Visitors who sign our TUUC guest book will receive six complimentary issues. The next due date for articles is **12:00 noon on Monday, February 20** for the **MARCH issue**.

To receive the following two *weekly email messages*, please sign up at

[http://tuuc-wa.org/mailman/listinfo/announce\\_tuuc-wa.org](http://tuuc-wa.org/mailman/listinfo/announce_tuuc-wa.org)  
(underscore symbol before 2nd tuuc)

\* **Caring Community** is an un-archived, subscribed Tuesday email notice for members and friends to share joys, sorrows, concerns, and personal announcements. Submissions are due by **noon on Mondays**.

\* **Weekly E-News** is an online & emailed Thursday message of church business and news. Submissions are due by **noon on Wednesdays**, the same as for the **Sunday Order of Service**.

Send articles and announcements to James Venturini at [editor@tuuc-wa.org](mailto:editor@tuuc-wa.org); please ALSO send your event DATES & TIMES to Mike Field at [admin@tuuc-wa.org](mailto:admin@tuuc-wa.org)

## OUR VISION

The Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation is an enduring community in which we promote the values of liberal religion through our actions both individually and as a community.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation is to sustain a community in which we:

- Welcome all with love and compassion,
- Celebrate the diversity in our common humanity,
- Inspire the spirit, heart, and mind,
- Engage with the wider community in working for justice,
- Live and promote Unitarian Universalist principles.

## TUUC COVENANT

We the members of the Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation, do hereby commit ourselves to strive to live by the following words:

- 1) I will connect with people in a respectful and loving way by listening carefully, by welcoming newcomers and members alike with kindness and encouragement, and by promoting diversity.
- 2) I will offer my stewardship to enable the church and its programs to flourish; and to provide fair compensation, a proper working environment and continuing professional development of the minister and church staff.
- 3) I will make commitments thoughtfully, keep them faithfully, and support the work done by others.
- 4) I will pay faithful attention to my relationship to the church, and balance my commitment to the nurturing of myself and others.
- 5) I will support the Board of Trustees, its committees, and the staff in the governance of the congregation, and will express my opinions through these channels, especially if I disagree with a decision.
- 6) Recognizing that conflict can be an opportunity, I will engage with others in responsible problem solving by speaking respectfully and directly to the person involved first; and by listening carefully, respecting confidences, and being willing to participate in mediation.
- 7) I will participate in a process that examines the church's relationship to the wider community and strives to be a responsible, vital, and inspirational part of that community in a way that is consistent with our Unitarian Universalist principles and values.

# February 2012 Events & Activities at TUUC

## EVERY WEEK (\*denotes RENTERS)

**MONDAY** by Noon - Caring Community notes DUE--p.2  
5:45 pm - Camp Fire Meetings  
7:00 pm - Vipassana Meditation  
7:00 pm - elsewhere: TUUC BAND -- RSVP for location, [wolfwall2@gmail.com](mailto:wolfwall2@gmail.com)

**TUESDAY** 6:30 pm - AA Group \*

**WEDNESDAY** by Noon - Weekly E-news notes DUE---p.2  
by Noon - Order of Service notes DUE---p.2  
6:30 pm - Adult Spiritual Development

**THURSDAY** 6:00 pm - Yoga  
7:00 pm - Choir Practice --see Program Guide

**SUNDAY** **Worship Services** ---see back cover  
10:30 am - Youth Group, Thomas Jefferson Rm.

## UNIQUE EVENTS in FEB.

**SAT. FEB. 11**, 8:00a Intrepids Snowshoeing p. 4  
**SAT. FEB. 11**, 6:00p Valentine's Dance p. 6  
**SUN. FEB. 12**, 10:30a Music Committee  
**THUR. FEB. 16**, 6:00p 20s-30s Group Artwalk p. 5  
**SAT. FEB. 18**, 6:00p Circle Dinner  
**MON. FEB. 20**, 7:00p 20s-30s Group Meeting p. 5  
**SAT. FEB. 25**, 8:00a Intrepids Snowshoeing p. 4  
**SUN. FEB. 26**, 1:00p "A Year to Live" class

## TUUC Online Calendar

<http://www.my.calendars.net/tuucadmin>

## ONCE (or twice) each MONTH

<b>FIRST SUNDAY:</b>	<b>Facilitators Covenant Group</b> , 9:15 a.m.	- Sun. Feb. 5	---see Program Guide
	<b>Supper for Tacoma Ave. Shelter</b>	- Sun. Feb. 5	---see Program Guide
FIRST MONDAY:	<b>Chalice Circle</b> , 7:00 p.m.	- Mon. Feb. 6	---see Program Guide
SECOND WEDNESDAY:	<b>Lay Pastoral Care Team</b> , 4:30 p.m.	- Wed. Feb. 8	---see page 2
SECOND SATURDAY:	<b>Program Council</b> , 9:00 a.m.	- Sat. Feb. 11	
<b>SECOND SUNDAY:</b>	<b>Program Advisory Committee</b> , 11:15 a.m.	- Sun. Feb. 12	
	<b>Religious Exploration Committee</b> , 12:30 p.m.	- Sun. Feb. 12	
	<b>Rationality Covenant Group</b> , 12:30 p.m.	- Sun. Feb. 12	---see Program Guide
	<b>Social Action Committee</b> , 12:30 p.m.	- Sun. Feb. 12	---see page 5
	<b>Moondancer's Covenant Group</b> , 4:00 p.m.	- Sun. Feb. 12	
SECOND TUESDAY:	<b>Men's Reading Group</b> , 6:30 p.m.	- Tue. Feb. 14	
THIRD THURSDAY:	<b>Hospitality Kitchen Serving</b> , 8:00 a.m.	- Thu. Feb. 16	---see page 5
	<b>Chalice Circle</b> , 3:30 p.m.	- Thu. Feb. 16	---see Program Guide
	<b>Worship Committee</b> , 5:30 p.m.	- Thu. Feb. 16	---see Program Guide
THIRD FRIDAY:	<b>Third Friday Potluck</b> , 12:00 p.m.	- Fri. Feb. 17	---see page 4
	<b>Lay Pastoral Care Team</b> , 10:30 a.m.	- Fri. Feb. 17	---see page 2
<b>THIRD SUNDAY:</b>	<b>Yes, We CAN! Food Drive</b> , during worship	- Sun. Feb. 19	---see page 5
	<b>Bible Study</b> , 11:15 a.m.	- Sun. Feb. 19	---see page 9
	<b>Computer Club</b> , 12:15 p.m.	- Sun. Feb. 19	---see Program Guide
	<b>NW Detention Center Vigil</b> , 1:00 p.m.	- Sun. Feb. 19	---see page 5
THIRD TUESDAY:	<b>Board of Trustees</b> , 6:30 p.m. (open to members)	- Tue. Feb. 21	
LAST FRIDAY:	<b>Sandwich Making for Hungry &amp; Homeless</b> , 5:30 p.m.	- Fri. Feb. 24	---see Program Guide
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY:</b>	<b>Membership Committee</b> , 12:30 p.m.	- Sun. Feb. 26	

## COMING UP

UU Women's Retreat - **MARCH 2 - 4** (SEE PAGE 6)



Read about TUUC Programs in the [2011 Fall Program Guide](#)

Look for the Adult Spiritual Development (ASD) Programs link at [tuuc-wa.org](http://tuuc-wa.org)

# News from HCIT

continued from page 1

which we connect with others, recognizing that we are accompanying and being accompanied by others on our personal journey." The Dreamcasting report that we heard on January 22 helps us to see what our shared dreams are for this community of spiritual seekers. As we heard, working together in this connected community we **can** achieve our dreams.

**Leadership** – The report recommends "ongoing training of the current Board and new Board members that provides in-depth Board and leadership training every two years. Ongoing training of the Board can take place in the form of reading, facilitated discussion at Board meetings or retreats, and workshops by PNWD consultants or others." We were fortunate to be able to arrange a sharing of facilitators from the Olympia UU Church for the annual Board retreat on January 7. Tim Ransom worked with Board President Jack Bregger to finalize the design of the meeting and then facilitated the Board for a full day of connection and commitment on that Saturday.

**Bylaws** – Another huge accomplishment was completed at the annual meeting in December when we voted in a new set of bylaws for the congregation. A dedicated team worked more than thirty Saturday mornings to thoroughly review and revise our bylaws. They coordinated with many leaders, members, and staff to ensure their proposal addressed current and future needs. Additionally, they met with interested congregants between services in November to ensure everyone had a chance to review and discuss the bylaws before the annual meeting. Based on this congregational input, several adjustments were made to the final document before it was presented for an overwhelmingly positive vote on December 11.

As we start this new year we want to celebrate the work we have done together. We are pleased to be working together with you on so many fronts as we nurture and support the work this congregation is doing in 2012. We are your Healthy Congregation Implementation Team, chaired by Chris Martin and including Rev. Bill Graves, Scott Redman, Porter Kelley, and Chris George.

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## Third Friday Potluck

February 17th is the next date for our Third Friday Potluck. Andy Bartels will bring us a program of fun and music. Andy has performed from our pulpit on Sundays, so I know he will delight us with his music and stories. Maybe we'll all be a part of the program. Come with your contribution for the noon meal at 12:00 Friday, February 17th.

## TUUC CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS

— January 2012 —  
(Not including 1/29/12)

For **TUUC Operations**: \$ 564

**Change For Change**: \$ 184.42  
*(NW Immigration Rights Project)*

**"Yes, We CAN!"** Third Sunday Food Drive: \$ 0

### SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

January 1  
86 at 10:30 a.m.

January 8  
70 at 9:30 a.m.  
147 at 11:15 a.m.

January 15  
52 at 9:30 a.m.  
77 at 11:15 a.m.

January 22  
102 at 9:30 a.m.  
121 at 11:15 a.m.

## March 10 Progressive Dinner Fundraiser

Come join us for the March 10th TUUC Progressive Dinner Fundraiser. The Saturday March 10th hosts are Dave & Allison Cerny, Jan Lind, Chris & Nancy Meyer, and Dick & Kay Coulter. The dinner will consist of four courses, one course in the home of each of the hosts, and will begin with appetizers at 5:30 p.m. The dinners are prix fixe at \$35 per person and limited to 16 persons. To reserve your seat on March 10th, send a check made out to TUUC for \$35 to Joan Benderson at 9201 65th St Ct W, University Place, 98467.

## Intrepids Go Snowshoeing

We are planning outings for February 11 and 25, with departures from TUUC at 8:00 a.m. The likely destination for the 11th is the beautiful trail along the Carbon River, just inside Mt. Rainier National Park. The destination for the 25th is TBA. Appropriate winter clothing and willingness to rent snowshoes if loaners not available are required. Join us and enjoy the beauty of winter! Ask questions and/or sign up with Fran at tatooshie@yahoo.com or Felice at fdavis1944@gmail.com.

## Social Action Committee

The next Social Action committee meeting will be after the last service on February 12, 2012, and we welcome all newcomers. The next vigil at the Northwest Detention Center will be on February 19 at 1:00 p.m. This is quite a remarkable experience, and we welcome you to join us in compassion for the loved ones of detainees.

February's Change for Change will be for the budget booster for TUUC. We do this twice a year to help plug holes in our budget, a very necessary thing to do. The committee is welcome to new ideas and projects for Change for Change, by the way.

For the Occupy Tacoma folks, who managed to stay in their tents during the storm (although we are not sure how), if you identify at all with the 99%, here are suggestions for their needs:

- propane for their outdoor heater
- small bottles of propane for personal heaters
- hand and toe warmers
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- any home-cooked hot meals

... and they are most grateful for any contributions.

**Sunday Services** are recorded and are available from the TUUC Library.



## Hospitality Kitchen Date Change

Going forward, members and friends of TUUC will volunteer to serve breakfast and lunch at Hospitality Kitchen (1323 S Yakima, Tacoma) on the third Thursday of each month. We volunteer from approximately 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This is a great way to get to know others in the congregation while serving the growing need for food in Pierce County and supporting our UU community minister, Rev. Jim Anderson, who is the Director of Hospitality Kitchen and the Tacoma Avenue Shelter. Please contact Joan Benderson @ 253-566-4334 or by email at joan.benderson@nventure.com for more details or with questions.

## GIVING LIFE THE SHAPE OF JUSTICE: A SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP LED BY THE REVEREND RICHARD GILBERT

**March 23-24, 2012**

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, Kirkland WA

Can your congregation's social justice work be more effective and engage the hearts and minds of more people? Join us for this special opportunity to learn and experience effective congregation-based social action from the Reverend Richard Gilbert, an outspoken voice for Unitarian Universalist justice-making work. The Reverend Gilbert, Minister Emeritus of First Unitarian Church of Rochester NY, is the author of the *Building Your Own Theology* curriculum, and of *The Prophetic Imperative: Social Gospel in Theory and Practice*, and *How Much Do We Deserve? An Inquiry into Distributive Justice*, as well as meditation manuals.

Workshop cost is \$25 per person, and includes lunch on Saturday. To register, contact WA UU Voices for Justice, [coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org](mailto:coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org), 360 786-8074.

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## TUUC 20s-30s Group

### Twenties and Thirties Group - Tacoma Artwalk

Thursday, February 16 from 6 – 8:00 p.m. Our scheduled activity for the month is the Tacoma Artwalk ([www.artwalktacoma.com](http://www.artwalktacoma.com)). This is rescheduled from January when weather cancelled the Third Thursday events. This is an event put on monthly by downtown Tacoma commercial art galleries as well as the downtown museums. Entry to all locations is free. We'll meet at the Bridge of Glass at 6:00 p.m. From there we can decide what venues or museums the group wants to go to. Please RSVP to Dave Cerny at [xcerny@gmail.com](mailto:xcerny@gmail.com) so the group knows if we should wait for anyone else!

### Twenties and Thirties Group Meeting

Our first monthly meeting of the year will be at Forza coffee-house at N 21st and Pearl on Monday February 20th from 7 - 9 :00 p.m. We'll be planning our group's activities for the next few months, so everyone bring your calendars and your ideas for activities. If you can't make it right at the start, don't be afraid to come in after we've started. Contact Nicole Scheer, [nscheer92@gmail.com](mailto:nscheer92@gmail.com) or Dave Cerny, [xcerny@gmail.com](mailto:xcerny@gmail.com)

**Yes We  
Fight Hunger**   
TUUC 3rd. Sunday Food Drive

# TUUC Valentine's Dance

Saturday, Feb. 11

6 PM-8:30 PM



Potluck finger foods  
and desserts

Cost \$5 donation for adults,  
under 18 free.

Don't miss Steven Garret dancing to Rock Lobster!

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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S RETREAT

March 2 - 4 2012

It's time for our annual **UU Women's Retreat** – your opportunity to bond with fellow UU women and take time out to focus on you. We will celebrate ourselves through creative, physical, and spiritual activities. This weekend is yours to use as you wish: engage with others, spend time in quiet contemplation – or do both!

We'll be at **Camp Seymour**, located on beautiful Glen Cove, just 30 miles from Tacoma!

**TWO** nights in heated cabins with bathrooms and showers

**FIVE** meals prepared and served by camp staff (no cooking or dishwashing)!

**OUTDOOR** activities: hiking, archery, boating, climbing wall, quiet contemplation

**WORKSHOPS:** Chocolate Appreciation (the sequel!); Getting Healthy Staying Healthy; Journaling Your Life; Meet Pierce County's Famous Suffragettes; Nature Walk; Book Sharing and Discussion; Yoga; Arts & Crafts; and MORE!

**MASSAGES** for an additional fee (first-come, first-served; sign-in sheets will be available at the retreat).

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Lisa Voso is a trial attorney and professional speaker. Her topic will be "It's OK ... Just Catch the Next Bus." You can read more about her at [vosoimpact.com](http://vosoimpact.com).

**SUNDAY SERVICE**

*Send in your registration TODAY with a deposit of \$55.00 to guarantee yourself a spot!*

Full price (if registered after January 22).....\$115.00

Saturday only (no overnight stay).....\$ 60.00

The Registration Form is on-line at [www.tuuc-wa.org](http://www.tuuc-wa.org), or available in the lobby at the church. Registration deadline is **February 19**. To register after that date, contact Laura Gardner (253-460-9678; [imgardner@comcast.net](mailto:imgardner@comcast.net)) to find out if space is available. *Cancellations will receive a refund (minus \$10) only if another person fills your place.*

# Laura Foltz Memorial Library News

February is the month of Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. Love and politics are indeed strange bed-fellows. But here in the TUUC Library, you'll find many books touching on both subjects. Here are a few eclectic suggestions:

**The Soul of Politics: Beyond "Religious Right" and "Secular Left"** (c1995) by Jim Wallis argues for a new political morality that combines social justice with personal responsibility and empowers the powerless, protects the environment, and fosters true democracy.

**Classics of Moral and Political Theory** (c1992) edited by Michael L. Morgan includes writings of a wide range of authors from Plato to Nietzsche. The cover art is a painting from Gauguin entitled "*Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?*" Find the answers here!

**Holy Hullabaloo: A Road Trip to the Battlegrounds of the Church/State Wars** (c2009) by Jay Wexler is a funny and informative visit to the people and places responsible for landmark decisions in recent judicial history. The place where fans said prayers before football games, a church notorious for animal sacrifice, a publicly-funded Muslim school, and a creationist museum are some of the sites included.

**Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia** (c2007) by Elizabeth Gilbert was made into a movie with Julia Roberts – you might have seen it!

**And the Bridge Is Love: Life Stories** (c1991) by Faye Moskowitz is a collection of anecdotes chronicling various funny, tragic and eye-opening scenes of the author's life, many of which touch on the isolation she has often felt as a Jew in a Christian society.

**We Pledge Our Hearts: A Treasury of Poems, Quotations And Readings to Celebrate Love And Marriage** collected by [Edward Searl](#) – is just what the title suggests!

**No Greater Love: The James Reeb Story** (c1993) by [Duncan Howlett](#) is the inspiring story of a young minister who died on March 8, 1965 in the cause for civil rights.

Amazon.com has this to say about **31 Ways to Change the World** (c2010), one of the new titles in the children's section of the Laura Foltz Library:

"Small actions multiplied by lots of people equals big change! That's the driving belief behind the social change movement *We Are What We Do* — and it infuses this lively, motivating book packed with action steps for younger readers. Incorporating the suggestions of thousands of children, tips range from stirring (stand up for something) to silly (walk your dad); from earth-friendly (don't charge your phone overnight) to eye-opening (where is that Waldo?); from social (teach your granny to text) to downright surprising (speak soccer!). These thirty-one creative, original ideas are contributed by kids for kids — and each is guaranteed to have a clear and positive impact. Of course, the book would not be complete without a final question to the reader: **what's the one thing you would do to change the world?**"

**Fall in love with reading!**  
Beverly Wilson [bbwilson46@gmail.com](mailto:bbwilson46@gmail.com)

# Adult Spiritual Development

## Wednesday Evening ASD

Wednesday Night Adult Spiritual Development is a drop in class from 6:30 – 8 p.m. No registration is required. If you can't make all the sessions in a series it is okay to miss a few. Childcare and Accessibility will be provided upon request by contacting Susie Maharry at smaharry@hotmail.com.

## Bill Moyers' Faith and Reason

Wednesday, February 1, 8, 15      *Facilitator: Lori Fernholz-Hartman*

Lori Fernholz-Hartman will lead four sessions using the Bill Moyers Faith and Reason Series. No one walks the line between faith and reason as thoughtfully as Bill Moyers. Classes will include: an interview with Pema Chodron, the Canadian housewife turned Buddhist nun--in this thoughtful, moving interview she explains Buddhism in a way we can all relate to; an interview with Margaret Atwood, author of "The Handmaid's Tale" & "The Edible Woman;" and Martin Amis, author of "London Fields," in which a cynical and disjointed society hurtles toward doomsday. Each session will include time for journaling and discussion after the interviews.

## “Dialoging with Emerson”

Wednesday, February 22      *Facilitator: Rev. Bill Graves*

Join us in this first of a four-part class led by our minister, Rev. Bill Graves. It will be based on the book: “Emerson as Spiritual Guide” by Barry M. Andrews. Arguably, no single individual had a more profound impact on our evolving liberal religion than Emerson. Andrews is one of our most knowledgeable and persuasive advocates for Emerson’s continuing spiritual value.

## Dr. Rebecca Parker

Tuesday, February 28 \*      *Facilitator: Dr. Rebecca Parker*

Dr. Rebecca Parker is President and Professor of Theology at Starr King School for the Ministry. Dr. Parker is an ordained United Methodist minister in dual fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association. Before assuming leadership of Starr King School in 1990, she spent 10 years as a parish minister in the Pacific Northwest and taught at the Northwest Theological Union in Seattle.

As Starr King’s Professor of Theology, Parker lectures widely on behalf of Unitarian Universalists. At Starr King, she teaches the foundational course in thea/ology in culture and context, and convenes advanced seminars in topics such as violence and redemption, process theology, liberal theologies, and religion and education.

Our congregation has been invited to attend the Walter Lowrie Lecture, which Dr. Parker will give on the evening of Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. The lecture is entitled “For the Love of Paradise: Resisting Crucifixion, Reclaiming Beauty and Justice.” It will take place from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 North J Street, Tacoma, WA 98403.

**\*Please note that this Tuesday lecture is replacing our normal Wednesday night class. There will be no ASD on Wednesday February 29.**

# Bible Study

## Seeking wisdom in scripture from a liberal religious perspective

Third Sunday of each month, September through May

11:15 a.m. TUUC Library / Facilitator: Mary Rhine

The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is a three-year cycle of readings from the Bible used by many Protestant churches. The RCL identifies Old Testament and New Testament readings for each week. It usually is about 10 minutes of reading, but we should have fertile ground for an hour of discussion. What did the ancients really mean? What was the historical perspective? Do different translations give a different impression? How does this speak to us in our modern, UU world?

Last year, the participants in the group had some great discussions. Ironically, we were often able to relate the readings for the week to the sermon we had just listened to in the 9:30 service.

Bring a Bible, if you can (any translation). A few extras will be provided.

**The next meeting is February 19:** 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

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## Spiritual Practices

### Vipassana Meditation

A meditation group is meeting regularly every Monday evening from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the TUUC Sanctuary for meditation in the Vipassana tradition. We typically sit or walk in meditation for 30 minutes, listen to a recorded dharma talk, and then have a short discussion in the spirit of awareness. No previous experience or preparation is necessary. All are welcome.

**Two new series starting Monday, January 30th, 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. in the sanctuary:**

On January 30th, we will be trying a new series based on the book “Dancing with Life,” by Phillip Moffitt, formerly CEO of *Esquire* magazine and now a guiding teacher at Spirit Rock Meditation Center. In addition to the book, there is a study guide and 52 email teachings. We will try several sessions every other Monday starting January 30th. On alternating Mondays we will continue to hear core teachings from Rodney Smith, the guiding teacher at the Seattle Insight Meditation Society, as he begins a new series on the fundamentals of mindfulness. There will also be occasional talks and presentations from other sources.

While it can be helpful to attend from the beginning of a series, each session also stands by itself. Therefore, feel free to join us anytime with “beginner’s mind.” All are welcome. Please contact me if you would like to be on the weekly email list for upcoming sessions.

—Sincerely, Mark Backus, [backusm@harboret.com](mailto:backusm@harboret.com)

### Yoga

We meet for yoga every Thursday from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary. You do not need to have experience with yoga, only a willingness to learn. We stretch and twist for relaxation and good health. We recommend that you wear loose, comfortable clothes, and bring a yoga mat. We also ask that you show up a couple minutes early so we can start on time. Please join us! Contact Loretta Skochenko-Dhaese 863-0595 at [loretta@worldstar.com](mailto:loretta@worldstar.com)

## Updates to TUUC's Child and Youth Protection Policy

TUUC has had a Child and Youth Protection Policy since 2002. Every year I review the policy with the religious education teachers. I'm proud that we have this policy and use it because having clear policy and guidelines within our sacred community can prevent many misunderstandings and provide a safer environment for us all.

As you know from news reports and possibly from personal experience, all neighborhoods, communities, and churches are vulnerable to all forms of abuse. It's not fun to discuss, but it must be talked about to keep children and youth safe. Bright light is a mighty tool.

As I learn more, I want to do better. I have heard from my religious educator colleagues through the years that when something goes wrong at church, one thing that helps is a good policy and a step-by-step process to guide you.

With all this in mind, the RE Committee and I are working to add sections into our child and youth protection policy governing the areas of new technologies, such as texting and social networks, as well as to clarify existing policy on youth and minors driving and riding together to church events. We would also like to hear from the board on the subject of registered sex offenders (RSO).

I have been researching the topic of RSO for a few months now and I'm finding great resources from the UUA (see "Balancing Acts, Keeping Children Safe" <http://www.uua.org/safe/children/index.shtml>)

I have also been reading newspaper articles on the subject and learning that RSO are as varied as alcoholics: some very dangerous

and others able to rehabilitate with professional help. Other UU churches in our area, like Evergreen in Marysville, have a straightforward policy regarding RSO attending their church and it's likely most churches have an abuser of one kind or another already attending, whether it is public knowledge or not. I am of the opinion that having issues like this out in the open is important for the safety of our young ones, and with the proper precautions we, as a congregation, can protect our youth and support those in need of spiritual support on their path to a healthy life.

I understand this is a topic that requires much thought and discussion and I look forward to participating in it with you as we take the steps to improve our Child and Youth Protection Policy.

-Lori

## Upcoming Events

- 2/5 ~1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Group lights chalice at 9:30  
~Coming of Age lights the chalice at 11:15
- 2/11 ~COA Overnight, starting 3:00 p.m.  
~All-Ages Valentine's Dance!  
See info on page 6
- 2/12 ~RE Committee meets, 12:30 p.m.  
~COA Chat-n-Chill
- 2/19 ~Celebrate January and February Birthdays, after both services in the social hall.  
~Mystery Pals begins (see information on the next page!)

## Happy Birthday to UU!

Rita Tumbusch, 9  
Ava Wadleigh, 12  
Angela Froschauer, 17

**Contact your Director of Religious Exploration, Lori Fernholz-Hartman**  
v-mail: (253) 306-7836, e-mail: [dre@tuuc-wa.org](mailto:dre@tuuc-wa.org) Office hours: Sun, Mon, Wed. 9 AM-3 PM

**Mystery Pals 2012!**

Mystery Pals is a fun and exciting way to meet new people at TUUC! It's like a Secret Santa except you do it in February. You just sign up with Lori and then she will assign you a code name (which will be a famous UU). Then every Sunday between February 19 and March 18 you leave a clue in the Mystery Pals Mailbox that will be in the lobby of the church. Your clue could be a riddle, a joke, something about you like that you are tall or short, or your favorite movie or book. The possibilities are endless, but give your pal a clue about who you are, so they can start guessing in their mind. If you wish you can give your pal small gifts like candy, drawings, poems, trinkets, or flowers, but this is optional. Make sure you are able to get a clue to TUUC all four of the weeks for Mystery Pals. If you can't be at TUUC, you can e-mail Lori your clue and she will get it in the mail box for you. After church is over adults pick up their mail in the lobby and children pick up their mail in the RE lobby downstairs. Don't let anyone see you open your mail though, because if your pal sees you pick up the mail they sent, they will know you are their mystery pal!

On March 25 we will have a reveal celebration in the social hall at 10:35 a.m. If you want to be a mystery pal you must agree to be there for the Reveal Celebration to meet your pal. Don't let them down!

Adults will be paired with children as much as possible, to make this an intergenerational activity.

Please e-mail Lori this week at [dre@tuuc-wa.org](mailto:dre@tuuc-wa.org) if you'd like to participate and she'll send you instructions on getting started!

**Classroom Assistant Schedule**

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26
3-4-5's 9:30	David Judish	Steve Ryan	Katie Spurrell	Yoshiko
1st-5th 9:30	Karly Sampaga	Lori F-H	Zac Yinger	Courtney
K-3rd 11:15	Krissy Kim	Erin Erlma	Holly Gorski	John Hargis
4-5 11:15	Bob Andersen	Lori F-H	Karin Van Vlack	Lisa Gasque
COA	Cathy D.	Kathleen	Kim Kaker	Lori F-H

It is TUUC policy that there are 2 adults with each class. It is important for the safety of the children and the teachers. You will get a reminder e-mail the Monday before you are assigned to help. If you cannot help on your assigned day, please try to trade with someone or contact Lori as soon as you can. Thanks!

**What Do I Get from Worship?**

I recently attended the celebrant training offered by our amazing worship committee: Mary Rhine, Scott Redman, Virginia Lane, Janee Cox (among others), and I found the experience engaging and valuable. Crafting and delivering a moving worship service is no small feat. I often think of it as putting on a new play each week, but it's even more than that. It's an opportunity to give the congregants transcendental moments, heart-warming thoughts, and a feeling of connection to the larger world. In order to create these experiences for you, worship leaders must consider what it is that moves them and I just stumbled upon my list that I would like to share. From Worship Services I get ...

- ~ a feeling of connection to my community
- ~a feeling of connection to my past
- ~enjoyment from hearing live music
- ~a "full-heart" feeling
- ~affirmation of my beliefs and values
- ~ritual and repetition can be calming for me

**What do you get from worship?**

**Contact your Director of Religious Exploration, Lori Fernholz-Hartman**  
**v-mail: (253) 306-7836, e-mail: [dre@tuuc-wa.org](mailto:dre@tuuc-wa.org) Office hours: Sun, Mon, Wed. 9 AM-3 PM**

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## Services in February:

**Sunday, February 5 - 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.**  
**"Spiritual Practice 101"**

**Rev. Bill Graves**

This is the first of a two-part sermon that will take a look at "spirituality". What is it and what isn't it? What are some simple practices that might help me find more of it in my life? It also might be called "soul work", or finding a sense of "sacred purpose" in life. For some, it is the most important task they ever undertake. Finding and living faithfully in that purpose is to live intensely in the here and now. That is the spiritual quest.

**Sunday, February 12 - 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.**  
**"Spiritual Practice 102"**

**Rev. Bill Graves**

We will review and build upon thoughts explored on February 5. Graduation from *Spiritual Practice 101* is not a prerequisite to attendance at this sermon. All are welcome. The TUUC Choir will perform.

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*The newly formed Music Committee of TUUC invites anyone who has an interest in the music for our services to attend monthly meetings for planning. If you don't care to be a member but have ideas to offer the committee about music, please contact Kathy Strickland, Chair.*

**Sunday, February 19 - 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.**  
**"Healing the Heart of Democracy"**

**Rev. Bill Graves**

"Of the people, by the people and for the people" is another expression coined by a Unitarian. Use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large is an article of our faith; it's our Fifth UU Principle. Glaring tensions tearing at these ideals are voiced in the "Occupy \_\_\_\_\_ Movement" and reflected in the dollar-driven politics of present America. What *at the heart* needs healing?

**Sunday, February 26 - 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.**  
**"Doing the Right Thing"**

**Rev. Jim Anderson**

In the middle of complex and confusing situations, most people want to do the right thing. How do you know what that is? This sermon will look at how we develop our values and how our life experiences impact our ethical decisions. Sometimes, "doing it right the first time" is more of a challenge than we have anticipated. The TUUC Choir will perform.