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Main Church Office Hours

Becky will be in the office:

Tuesdays 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Wednesdays 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Thursdays 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Sunday Services

9:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Sunday, Feb. 6 **Seeds of Conflict, Seeds of Creativity**

There is no avoiding conflict in life. We can choose to make our conflicts destructive impasses or we can choose to make our conflicts creative opportunities.

Speaker: Rev. Joan Montagnes

Celebrant: Adam Sowards

Sunday, Feb. 13 **Brotherhood and Sisterhood through Music**

Music can have such a bonding effect on people. Come and celebrate this bond with your fellow talented UUs -- you might be surprised at the amount of talent all around you.

Celebrant: Jeanne Jacobson

Sunday, Feb. 20

Brother Pain

A physician shares his reflection on the fundamental nature of pain and its meaning.

Speaker: Dan Schmidt

Celebrant: Ann Norton

Sunday, Feb. 27

The Questioning Faith

Were you thrown out of Sunday School for asking too many questions? At the Church of the Palouse, we encourage your questions. We encourage you to have an examined faith. Have you got a question about Unitarian Universalism, Life, The Universe of Anything? Pop your question in to the box in the foyer or e-mail it to Rev. Joan by February 13 and she will try to give you an answer in this service.

Speaker: Rev. Joan Montagnes

Celebrant: Steve Cooke

From the President's Computer. . .

Last month I noted that my writing took off in a different direction than I'd intended. (A bit like my skis at last month's snow retreat!) I *intended* to provide highlights of the Board's activities in 2004 (just in case you didn't scrutinize the posted Board minutes each month). After all, the final authority at UUCP lies with YOU – the *members*.

One of the decision highlights of the past year was to focus our search for the new Director of Religious Education on attracting a professional, who has been *called* to the ministry of teaching children. We have been amazingly fortunate to have had the talents of Ginger as our Acting DRE and of Karen before her. We want to have our new DRE be able to start up at the level these wonderful women have brought us to. More expensive? Likely. Worth it? Very likely, especially as we want to see our church continue in the direction of high-level programming.

Another important decision made in 2004 was committing to become a *Fair Compensation Congregation* – meaning we have set the goal of paying (eventually) all our staff a respectable wage. The budget submitted by the Board for 2005 (and approved by the congregation!) had a substantial increase from 2004 – largely due to raising the level of compensation for several woefully underpaid staff positions.

We still have work to do for implementation – but this step was significant. The decision came from two UU principles (promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and promoting justice and equity). At the same time, this step was not taken lightly. We've been in uncertain economic times, with many feeling economic strain.

We all (the Board, plus Personnel and Finance committees) struggled with asking the congregation to increase their donations in these times – yet we resolved that we need to do the right thing. That is, live by and actively promote the principles we claim. It was gratifying to see the congregation step forward and approve the budget. It also looks like we broke the record in fulfilling our 2004 pledge goal! Gratifying indeed! And how gratifying to know we have a strong pool of church and committee members to figure out how to make it happen. ☺

May you take the lessons of social justice, peace, freedom, and democracy celebrated in our winter national holidays with you as you go forth this month.

Warm regards,

Cathy Perillo



From the Minister

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...

I love you with an open mind that is often astonished by your beauty.

I love you with a warm heart which is filled by your splendor.

I love you with honesty and edginess that may push you past your comfort zone.

I love you with the enthusiasm of a golden retriever who sloppily welcomes you at the door.

I love you with comfort, a hankie, and tears.

I love you with a firm vision of your possibilities, your potential, and your future.

I love you as a juggler loves her balls, plates, rings, knives, moving, always moving and sometimes...falling...

I love when you laugh at my jokes...and when you don't.

I love sharing meals with you.

I love you with Committee work and Board meetings.

I love that you trust me enough to share your lives with me.

I love you dancing, chatting, and knitting.

I love that you can magically make pizzas become International Heifers, happy beagles, human rights, women safe from domestic violence, and beds for the homeless.

I love that you forgive my humanness.

I love that you show up.

I love when we make music together.

I love your gifts of fish, Christmas goodies, quilted stoles, colorful children's hand prints, and all the ways you have found for the care and feeding of ministers.

I love you when you come to my office with your life in hand.

I love you when you challenge me with questions that cut the bull.

I love you as we paint the nursery walls together.

I love the proud, creative ministry you give the world.

I love you with my faith; my trust in our shared ability to make a difference about things that matter.

My dearly beloved community of memory, caring and hope, happy Valentines Day!

Yours in faith, joan

Thanks...

Thank you to **Ken and Karen Faunce** for organizing the Snow Retreat. They did an excellent job of organizing fluffy snow – some of the best skiing in years!

Thank you **Jeanne Jacobson** for tending to our Way Side Pulpit which offers not only our sermon topics to the community but also words of wisdom to live by.

Thank you to **Ruth Klieger** who donated the railing for the outside stairs leading to the Yellow House Basement.

In the Family...

We send healing thoughts to **Debbie Grieb** as she deals with severe back difficulties.

Congratulations to **Meadow Poplawsky** who won the youth art award at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

Minister's Office Hours

Joan will be in her office 2 – 5:00 pm Wednesdays and Thursdays and 11:00 am – 5:00 pm on Fridays. She is also available other times; either call and make an appointment or just drop by. Joan will be out of her office on Feb 16, 17, and 18 for professional development.

Compassionate Communication

Introduction: Feb. 8, 7-8 p.m.

C C Class: Feb 15 to mid-May, 7-9pm

Caution! Compassionate Communication may be hazardous to your life-alienating self-talk, your conflicts and misunderstandings, and to war on a larger scale. Beware! Learning this process of deep listening will change your life. Do not attend the Compassionate Communication Class (based on Marshall Rosenberg's book Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life) Tuesday nights beginning February 15 (through mid-May) unless you desire deeper connections with others or a way for peace to become a reality. Parents, spouses, and those who work with other human beings are especially vulnerable to this paradigm shift in understanding. And do not attend the Introduction to Compassionate Communication on Tuesday night February 8; you may become interested. Stay away from the Yellow House main floor for the Intro, and the basement for the class. Especially beware of calling Veronica Lassen at 882-2562 for more information.

Wine Tasting

The Wine Tasting Group is having another Tasting on February 6th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the lovely home of Mary Jo Hamilton (same as last time).

Please bring something appetizer-like to share.

Wine will be provided and will include a variety of Viognier's (pronounced V-Own-Yeah) from France, California and Australia. If you have not tried this inexpensive, delightful, tasty alternative to Chardonnay, please come and try it! Printed information about the Wine's cost and availability will be provided to all who attend.

Cost is: \$5.00 a person.

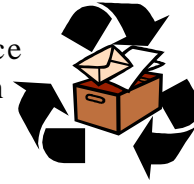
Questions can be directed to Carol Taylor: home phone 883-0689, ctaylor@cs.uidaho.edu or

Mary Jo Hamilton: work phone 509-335-6058, mhamilto@vetmed.wsu.edu.



Service Auction 2005 "Recycled"

The 2005 Service Auction will take place in the church sanctuary on Saturday, March 5, beginning at 7 p.m. Activities for children and a nursery will be available in the basement. This year's theme is "Recycled," and in honor of this theme, we are doing some "recycling" of our own. Last year's "wild and crazy" team of Service Auction co-chairs are recycling their efforts to help us raise even more money than church members and friends raised in 2004; our co-auctioneers this year are recycling their superb past efforts—Pete Klaiber from 2004, and Andrea Chavez from 2003; and last year's service-offering sheets are being recycled in various colors. Admission is free, but we are asking folk to bring a can or two of food that we can recycle to local area food banks. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of the Service Auction offerings sheet. More will be available in the church lobby. Please turn them in to the appropriately labeled depository in the church lobby, or email your offerings to rwallins@moscow.com . Even if you are unable to attend the party on March 5, you can participate by offering goods and services for others to buy.



Spring into Volunteerism

Serve the church without burning out! Fill out one of the simple pink Volunteer forms in the foyer and put it in the basket. It will take you One Minute! We are making a data base to make sure that you feel wanted and needed and useful, but not over burdened with church chores. We want to make it easy for you to say YES! We want you never to have to say no. If you fill out one of those pink forms, you can choose when and what and how often you can serve your beloved community. You could even sign up with your friends or your Small Group Ministry Group and make a party of it. Spring in Volunteerism!! What a great way to live life to the fullest!



Ms UU Speaks Out



Several questions addressed to our Ms UU etiquette advisor have come up, probably due to the outburst of enthusiasm generated by the recent announcements regarding the March 5 Recycled Service Auction.

Dear Ms UU:

I have a bunch of stuff in my basement that I don't have time to take to the dump. How much can I sell it for at the UUCP Service Auction? This year's theme is, after all, "recycled".

[signed] Needs a Basement Decluttering

Dear Needs Decluttering:

A good solution might be for you to request someone, as part of the UUCP Service Auction, to help you clean out and organize your basement. Many UUCPers have unique and special skills and talents of which you might be unaware, and Ms UU strongly suspects that there is someone who would love to help you organize and clean out your basement in return for your making a donation to the church. Please keep in mind that UUCP hopes to raise \$13,000 at this event, the 2nd largest fundraiser of our church year. Not only do individuals request services, which is what you would be doing, but they also offer goods and services. The Service Auction committee needs you and everyone else to offer fun parties where UUCPers can sign up and pay up in advance, and also to offer exotic items for silent or live auction. For the silent and live auction, unique jewelry and craft or art items have worked well in the past. If some of the items in your basement fit that category you might ask the party planners, Laurie Gardes or Roger Wallins, if they would be good additions to the auction. Otherwise, there's always the Goodwill truck at the mall... and maybe someone at UUCP would perform the service of taking it there, if you were to request that service.

Dear Ms UU:

I'm new here. I want to get to know all the swell people at UUCP and am wondering how this upcoming party, the 2005 Service Auction on March 5 from 7-9 p.m. might help me. And of course, I want to go dancing at the Moscow Mardi Gras that night as well. What can you recommend to me?

[signed] Loves A Good Time

Dear Loves A Good Time:

You really came to the right church! It occurs to Miss UU that you might like to offer a fun party, so that fun UUCPers will get to know what a fun person you are. You might like to offer a game night at your house, perhaps a favorite board or card game. (Ms UU is VERY fond of UUCP poker nights!) You'll get to decide what games, what night, what time, how long, how many people, what refreshments you'll provide, and how much each attendee will pay to UUCP to attend your party. The Service Auction committee has forms for you to provide this information. Then put the form in the box in the foyer ASAP and just wait for the fun folks to sign up for your fun party! After March 5 you'll get a list of who signed up, and a few weeks before the event you'll remind them, and get yourself and your house ready. Then, when party night arrives you'll all have a fabulous time! And, of course, at the Service Auction you yourself can sign up to attend fun events at the homes of other fun UU folks. As for going dancing at Mardi Gras after the service auction party, well, you won't be the only one hitting 2 parties that night. That's why the Service Auction will be over by 9 p.m. - that's when the Mardi Gras bands are just warming up! Ms UU always says "Party On!!!"



Feed of Dreams

Join us for dinner prepared by the Men's Group on February 16 at 6:00 in the church basement. Cost is \$3.00 per person with a maximum of \$10.00 per family. All are welcome!



Hospitality Tip of the Month

One of the recommendations for creating a welcoming atmosphere for newcomers is to keep the foyer open and uncrowded. It would help to minimize congestion if we move right into the sanctuary rather than congregating in the foyer before the service.



Small Group Ministry

Instant friends! Real meaning! Action! Have you always wanted a small group of friends with whom to talk about the really important things in life? Have you ever wished you and a group of kindred spirits could get together and do something really worth doing?

Then grab a yellow form in the foyer and sign up for Small Group Ministry.

Once you've filled out the form, mail it to the church, put it in the offering basket on Sunday, or just hand it to Rev. Joan. She will be delighted to welcome you into the wider ministry of our congregation.

February Birthdays

Henry Gregson

Ben Walden

Cori Gillis

Zoe Werner

Lena Werner

Ginger George

Chris Sappington



Retirees Luncheon

The UU Retirees will meet for lunch at noon on Thursday, February 3, in the Appaloosa Room, Best Western. All are welcome!

Book Discussion Group

As of this writing, the book discussion group has not yet chosen a book for February. Watch the e mail list for an announcement, check your order of service, or e-mail Mary Jo Hamilton at mhamilto@vetmed.wsu.edu for an update. The book discussion group is open to anyone who likes to read books and talk about them.

Religious Education News

Greetings!

We may still have some winter left, but the warm, sunny weather has turned everyone's minds to spring. This spring in Religious Education we are embarking on the theme of Environmentalism. This theme focuses on appreciation of the natural Earth and gives children real ways of caring for the world we share. This is a popular theme among our teachers and children and includes a possible field trip. Many UUs have a great sense of environmental awareness; if these types of issues excite you please consider sharing your enthusiasm through teaching this spring.

Every year just in time for Valentine's Day, comes the Secret Pals program. The RE staff matches adult and child pals for an engaging and fun correspondence. This program offers a great intergenerational connection and is fun and rewarding for all that participate. In April there is a wrap up potluck where the secret identities are revealed. Be sure to sign up on

February 6th and 13th for the program. As the continued efforts to create a warm and welcoming RE building continue, I am reminded of the great history our physical church has to offer. Recently, Shirley Caldwell donated the supplies to remodel the upstairs Yellow House bathroom. Jerry Grzebielski and Bill Styer provided the manpower and a new, comfortable room emerged. Yet in the process of creating the new, bits of the past were discovered. Behind the old enduring wallpaper were pieces of newspaper, which was not unexpected. Yet this newspaper was in another language, probably Swedish or Danish. As I sit in my office, at one time a bedroom, I wonder about the children and families who have lived in this home. Some spoke English, others spoke their native tongue. They have loved here, squabbled here, grew here, and eventually moved on. Now we are here to nurture our children and ourselves in these persisting walls, and I am thankful building offers us.

As time continues on I often find repose in the past.

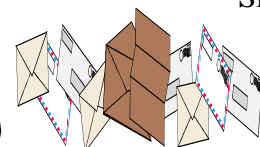
Warm Wishes,

Ginger George
Acting Director of
Religious Education

It's Secret Pal Time again!

This is a chance for an intergenerational connection for you and/or your children! From

Sunday, **February 6-** Sunday, **February 13**, children and adults can sign up for our annual Secret Pal program. The Program begins on **February 20**, and ends with a potluck on **April 10**.



Sign-up forms and further information

will be available on the RE board in the Church basement.

Spring Teachers Needed! The theme is Environmentalism

Please sign up on the teacher's calendar on the church web site or contact the Director of Religious Education. Go to <http://users.moscow.com/uuchurch/re/signup.html> and follow the easy instructions to sign up. The session begins on **March 6th** and continues through **May 29th**. The teachers' orientation is on **February 27th**. Teachers teach in teams of three. Children, supplies, and full curriculum provided.

Everyone has gifts to share with our growing, loving children.

Need to contact the RE Director?

Ginger George's office hours:

Wednesday 1:30 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Thursday 1:00 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Friday 1:00 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Send RE related emails to:
uucp-dre@moscow.com



Purple Paisley Quilters News

Things are returning to normal after all the hubbub of the holidays. The first few Mondays were basically decompression; we sat around swapping stories and photos of our times with family and friends and working on our knitting projects. Now we are back to quilting, first to finish the border of the Trip Around the Garden quilt, and second to create a quilt out of dog scarves. There is still a significant knitting contingent at quilting, which I consider to be not a bad thing. I have been finishing up the special order socks from the Holiday Bazaar, and we all have been working on Afghans for Afghans knitting.

I was gone for nearly a month over the holidays, to Adelaide and Melbourne on the south coast of Australia. Many thanks to Nancy Wright, who kept my plants from running amok, and to Kenna and Laurie Gardes, who tended to my flock of birds and shamelessly spoiled my cats, allowing them to retain their firmly held belief that they are king and queen of the universe.

Mary George, along with Michael McNeal, invested a little time in the Annual Cleaning Out of the PPQ Sewing Basket, making it ever so much more functional and answering the frequently asked question, "Where did all the scissors go?"

Our coffee project, Grounds for Change, is going very well. The coffee is shade grown and fair trade, and part of their profits from its sale go to support domestic violence intervention and micro business loans for women. The PPQ made an initial investment to purchase sufficient coffee to supply several Sundays of coffee hours, plus enough to sell. The coffee has had good reviews, and people have been very eager to purchase more coffee to use at home. We have made our second order of the coffee for the church's use. All profits from the sale of the coffee that are not used to replenish the kitchen supply will be used eventually for upgrades to the church kitchen. Thanks to PPQ members Michelle Feeley, Nancy Wright and Marguerite Thoreson for making all of this happen.

It has been brought to my attention that, hard to believe, some people in the congregation do not know exactly who the PPQ are. I guess it is because of our shy, retiring personalities. Anyway, I thought we could profile members occasionally, so you could learn more about us.

Our first interviewee is . . .



PPQ: Tell us something about yourself, Eleanor. What is your favorite color?

ER: Grey.

PPQ: How about your favorite food?

ER: Oh, brownies, definitely.

PPQ: Tell us, Eleanor, how you came to join the PPQ.

ER: Well, I moved to Moscow about a year ago to be a computer technician at the University of Idaho, and joined PPQ six months ago. I saw them give away a baby quilt, and thought they looked friendly.

PPQ: What did you find when you went?

ER: Well, I'm very shy and find it difficult to talk with people I don't know. The PPQ all seemed very glad that I had come, and since they all talk at the same time, I can either join in or just listen and still be a part of things. They also ask me a lot of questions, which makes it easier for me to talk to them. They also taught me to knit. I'm on my fifth scarf, and I'm going to try socks next.

PPQ: What was your favorite PPQ activity?

ER: Shopping for Christmas for Kids, definitely. It was so fun to spend lots of money on items to make kids happy. I could never have afforded to buy so many things on my own. I love being part of a group that gives money to good causes.

PPQ: What is your least favorite thing?

ER: Well, sometimes people just knit instead of quilting. It is easier now that I can knit too, but I really like the hand quilting. I hope we do more of that soon. To see the progress that you have made at the end of the evening is very satisfying.

PPQ: Would you recommend PPQ to others?

ER: Definitely, yes. The people are patient in teaching new skills, and also very interesting people to talk to. They are very welcoming to new people, and make me feel like I belong. Now that I know a few people, I might try some other church groups, like the choir or Social Action.

PPQ: Thank you, Eleanor, for your thoughts, and thank you very much for being a part of PPQ.

Mary Jo Hamilton

Valentine Chocolate Lovers Feast Fest

February 12

No more visions of sugar plums dancing in our heads — oh no! February is the month for (everyone holler it with me) CHOCOLATE!!! Yes, no matter who you love or how you love — singles, couples, girls, boys — we are gonna celebrate Valentine's weekend together with the best chocolate desserts we can find for Saturday night, February 12, from 7 til 10 pm in the church basement. We'll round up the proudest chocolate bakers/confectioneers in our congregation (you know who you are — please call me!), and beg them to bring their favorite, their best, their chocolatiest cakes, pastries, breads, or whatever, and the rest of us will be there for the priviledge of sampling, tasting, or simply indulging our faces in whatever they can provide! With a bit of coffee and/or wine to wash it all down. How does that sound for a nice little uncivilized evening of pre-Valentine's Day indulging?

You wanna help? — let me know what you have to offer! Besides makers and bakers, we need “ambiancers” (setting up zee tables and candles and the “mood”) and cleaner-uppers — we'll make it worth your while! Also, people who love both chocolate AND kids will be able to have a fun time in the Yellow House watching “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” with cupcakes and/or other age-appropriate forms of chocolate.

So call me, please, CALL ME, (Rebecca at 882-8168) if you want to be a part of this wonderful chocolatey dream. Sweets for the sweet, baby!

Rebecca R. Rod
www.RRRPottery.com

Mark Your Calendars

Mondays:

PPQ. 7:30 P.M. CB.
Men's Group. 7 P.M. Various locations. Contact Bill Styer at 882-2113 for info.
Small Group Ministry. 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month.

Wednesdays:

Choir. 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. CS
Small Group Ministry. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

Thursdays:

Palouse Harmony. 7:30 P.M. YHM

Sun., Feb. 6:

Wine Tasting at Mary Jo Hamilton's, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Tues., Feb. 8:

RE Committee, 7:30 P.M. YHB
Compassionate Communication Intro, 7:00 - 9:00, YHM

Fri., Feb. 12:

Choc Fest 7:00 - 10:0 P.M. CB

Tues., Feb. 15:

Newsletter Deadline. 5 P.M.
Board Meeting. 7:15 P.M. YHM.

Wed., Feb. 16:

Feed of Dreams. 6 P.M. CB

Thurs., Feb. 24:

Repast with the Reverend

Joan will be having lunch at Tam's Place Restaurant, 1005 E. Main St., in Pullman at 12:00. She would love some company. Hope to see you there!



Vespers

Vespers Services have been cancelled indefinitely due to lack of attendance.

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Office email: uuchurch@moscow.com
Jack Keller, treasurer: 509-432-3712
Ginger George, RE Director: 332-2540
Rita Styer, Caring Team: 882-2113

<http://users.moscow.com/uuchurch/>

Mail Pledge Payments to:
Louise Ashmun, collections treasurer
PO Box 9342
Moscow, ID 83843

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