



The Wy'east Beacon

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Whoever you are,
Wherever you come from
You are welcome here

Wy'east [*Wy'east* : Ancient name for Mount Hood] WWW.WYEASTUU.ORG

May/June 2011

What's Inside?

Special Collections
...Page 3...

Before & After
Worship
Programming
...Page 4...

Join a
Small Group
...Page 5...

Wy'east meets at the
Hollywood
Senior Center at
1820 NE 40th,
Portland.

The parking lot of
the U.S. Bank
around the corner is
available for Wy'east
on Sundays. That's at
the corner of Northeast
41st Avenue and
Hancock Street. Please
make use of it!

From the Minister ♦♦♦

I held off writing this column, because I was going to a clergy lunch today with members of the Oregon New Sanctuary Movement (oregonsanctuary.org). The organization is an inter-faith group working for justice for immigrants living in the US, with the belief that “everyone, regardless of national origin, has basic common rights, including but not limited to: 1) livelihood; 2) family unity; and 3) physical and emotional safety.” I was excited to network with other religious people in the city around our work this year on immigrants and refugees.

But instead, as I was on the way to lunch, I got a phone call from my daughter at school, saying she was sick, and could I come pick her up? This, as much as anything, illustrates the working parent dilemma. For me, it's how do I balance ministry and the needs of my children? Many of you have similar issues with balancing work and family. I know it's a tricky line sometimes, and I struggle occasionally with feeling like my own issues mean that I'm not always as available as I'd like to be to you all.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Sermons

5/1	Holding On To Hope	Susan Freisinger
5/8	Mothering Without the Job Title	Marcia Stanard
5/15	Intercultural Intergenerational Service	Oregon New Sanctuary Movement
5/22	To Be or Not To Be	Rev. Barbara Stevens
5/29	Where is Peace Found	Chalice Circle
6/5	This I Believe	Dan Eggar
6/12	Standing on Principle	Marcia Stanard
6/19	Gay Day at Wy'east	Chalice Circle
6/26	Beyond Tolerance	Rev. Tara Wilkins

(For Sermon Details, See “2 Months Of Sundays”, On Pages 6 & 7)

From the Minister *(continued)*

And yet, in a later conversation today, I realized that really, I think it's helpful to be able to model a work/life balance that works for both the congregation and my family. As a person who single parents half the time, I have big chunks of time without my kids, and I enjoy being able to focus on my work at Wy'east during this time. And certainly, most days, I'm able to balance work and home successfully. But when the interesting church thing I was looking forward to gets interrupted by the call from the school nurse that my child is vomiting and needs to go home now, well, family took precedence.

I've enjoyed meeting individually with several new members, and one of the most meaningful questions I ask is, "what pastoral care needs do you think you might have?" I've heard about aging parents and worries about children and many other issues. It's led to some rich conversations with folks. I'm grateful to know what's going on in your lives. Some of these conversations will be background for us as you approach me with pastoral care issues later. Others will simply be one of many good conversations we have.

And while your relationship with me is inherently different, because I work for you all, I still appreciate that you care about what's going on in my life, and that, when appropriate, you care for me the same way you'd care for any other member of the community. We've got a rockin' team of movers, I have to say! And, while it is never a congregation's job to take care of their minister, my hope is that by knowing just a bit about my life makes you feel more comfortable sharing your own with me. And after all, isn't that what community is about?

Warmly,
Marcia

Getting Connected @ Wy'east

Join the Wy'east Google Groups

Wy'east has two community-wide email lists through Google: "Wyeast" (for news and announcements about church events) and "Wyeast-chat" (an informal way for members and friends to share thoughts or events that are not official church happenings).

To subscribe to these groups, go to

www.wyeastuu.org/contact

or

groups.google.com/group/wyeast

and

groups.google.com/group/wyeast-chat

Wy'east Directory

Wy'east has a directory of contact information for lots of people in the community.

If you don't know where to find the directory, you're probably not in it - emails are sent periodically to everyone in the directory with instructions on how to access it. If you'd like to be added to our directory, contact Betty H. or anyone on the Connections Committee.

Worship Odds & Ends

On Sundays, it is helpful for long-time Wy'easters to **sit up front, in the middle, or to the far left** in order to be more welcoming to newcomers; it will make room for others who are new, people with children (who may need to make quick escapes), or people who want to discreetly enter after the service begins. Thanks!

The Wy'east worship committee is always dreaming up **new ideas** for services, speakers and activities. To share ideas or help bring services to life, contact us at wyeast-worship@googlegroups.com or talk to Mark A., Brooke C., Katy L., Amy O., or Marcia S.

If your child wants to light the chalice during a worship service, please contact anyone from the worship committee.

Wy'east Special Collections

In **May**, we'll donate to another group working with immigrants – **Community Action**, a 45 year old anti-poverty program in Washington County. From their website (written in both in English and Spanish): “Today, Community Action is the largest private nonprofit social service agency serving residents of Washington County, responding annually to more than 30,000 requests for assistance.”

<http://www.caowash.org>



In **June**, our collection will go to the **Community of Welcoming Congregations**. “The Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC) is an Oregon and SW Washington interfaith ministry and advocacy organization working toward full inclusion and equality for transgender, lesbian, bisexual, gay and questioning persons. Our work brings together people of faith who believe in the inherent dignity and worth of every person.”

<http://www.welcomingcongregations.org>



Newsletter News

The Wy'east Beacon is published bi-monthly. The deadline for the **July/August** issue submissions is **Thursday, June 16th**. Please put this date on your calendar, and send articles, meeting/event dates, poetry, artwork, book recommendations, favorite spiritual practices, etc. to: wyeast-news-editor@googlegroups.com. If you have any questions, contact Sharai E. or send an email to the above address. Thanks!

To save paper and printing costs, we are printing fewer copies of the newsletter. We encourage you to view it online, at:

<http://wyeastuu.org/newsletter.php>

From the Board

Want to know more about what goes on in the monthly board meetings? Minutes are posted on the Wy'east website: <http://wyeastuu.org/boardminutes>.

All are welcome to sit in on the meetings. They are generally the Monday that follows the second Sunday of the month. If you are interested in attending, check with any board member for the exact time, date and location.

Contacting RE & the Board of Trustees

Contact Liana A., the Religious Education Committee Chair if you have questions about our children's programming at Wy'east: wyeast-re@googlegroups.com.

If you have questions for the Wy'east Board of Trustees, you can send an email to wyeast-board@googlegroups.com or talk to any board member (David Tode O., Karl A., Dan E., Hank H., and Liana A.) on Sundays at church.

Before & After Worship Programming in May & June

If you have a programming idea that you would like to facilitate in the future, please contact Mark A.

MAY 1

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

MAY 8

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the service.

MAY 15

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

MAY 22

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am

MAY 29

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am



JUNE 5

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

JUNE 12

- **Potluck Brunch** • bring a dish to share right after the service.

JUNE 19

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am

JUNE 26

- **Social Hour** • 11:30 am
- **Restaurant Adventure** • 11:40 am

UU Adventures in Eating

SUNDAY POTLUCK

Our potlucks will be held on **May 8th** at 11:30 am and **June 12th** at 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share.



RESTAURANT ADVENTURE

After our service on the **fourth Sunday** of each month, those who are interested gather for lunch at a local restaurant. It is an opportunity for lively and topical conversation, and for enjoying the bounty of wonderful restaurant food available in Portland.

Our group varies in size from as few as four to as many as 15, and often includes both adults and children. We announce the month's destination during the service, gather a list of interested congregants, and then call ahead to make reservations.

We try to find places with a variety of moderately priced vegetarian and omnivorous menu items. We have some regular stops on the rotation, and we're always on the lookout for new restaurants to try.

Small Groups at Wy'east

Wy'east has recently introduced a number of small groups, or Chalice Circles. They are open to members and non-members of the congregation, and meet once or more a month. When they were originally proposed, it was thought the groups might only attract interest for a few months, however, nearly all of them have continued to meet. The leadership of these circles can be flexible, and ideas for new groups are always welcome.

Below is a list of the groups that Wy'east is currently running:

ENVIRONMENT:

This group endeavors to create environmental stewardship in the congregation and the community. It meets at Hollywood Senior Center after service, at approximately noon, on the first and third Sundays. The group has planned some topics for discussion and lined up speakers from community organizations to explore how our congregation can get involved in local actions. Contact Hank H.

CRAFTS:

This group meets every second Saturday of the month at 1pm in a private residence. All crafts are welcome to be worked on individually, or shared/taught, and some group collaborative projects are being planned. Contact Robin K.

MEDITATION:

This group's purpose is to practice guided meditation. Meets on alternate Wednesdays from 7-8 pm at a private residence. Contact Gina O.

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

This group has been meeting to develop projects in which the whole congregation, including our children, can participate. We are interested in: food security, women's shelter, racism, immigrant rights, gay rights, marriage equality, environmental justice, volunteering to help people, and continuing the work that Wy'east already does. Some ideas have already been implemented, such as collecting food and children's books for a community organization working with Hispanic families, and providing essentials that can't be bought with food stamps to newly arriving refugees. Future projects will center around the above interest areas. Contact Mark A.

PARENTING:

This group is a traditional chalice circle discussing parenthood and the family, and meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Debra T's home. Meetings run about ninety minutes and include a lighting of the chalice, check in, reading, people speaking from the heart with no cross talk, and closing words. The second half of the time will be a general discussion. Drop-ins are welcome--we recognize how hard it is to make a time commitment. Contact Debra T.

SENIORS:

This group's purpose is establishing deeper relationships among its members and supporting the congregation through social events and discussions. Meets to discuss issues related to aging and community, and to enjoy events together. Contact Hank H.

May

TWO MONTHS OF *Sundays*

May 1 HOLDING ON TO HOPE

Susan Freisinger is someone who has been in a wheelchair for almost twenty years through no fault of her own – she was hit in her car at a stoplight. What she’s done with that circumstance is to become a hospital chaplain. And what she’ll be speaking about with us today is “What is it we hope for in our lives, and how do we sustain that hope in difficult times?”

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

May 8 MOTHERING WITHOUT THE JOB TITLE

How many women (and men) have parented our children and us without ever getting credit for the work they’ve done? From stepmothers and relatives to “it takes a village,” we’ll spend this Mother’s Day discussing those people who’ve made a difference in our lives. Our Minister, **Marcia Stanard**, leads this service. Contact Marcia if you have a story to share of how someone has mothered you.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Wy’east Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

May 15 INTERCULTURAL INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

Guests from Oregon New Sanctuary Movement will lead an intergenerational service, which will include a talk about newcomer culture, and the experience of moving from other countries to join the community here in Portland!

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): There will be no RE, as this is an intergenerational Service. Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

May 22 TO BE OR NOT TO BE

Engaged Buddhism and the Balance Between Being and Doing – Western culture tends to emphasize “doing.” Eastern culture often emphasizes “being.” Engaged Buddhism is one way to balance these two qualities of being human. How can this Buddhist tradition inform our own approach to life? **Rev. Barbara Stevens** serves as a chaplain at Providence Hospital’s inpatient chemical dependency unit. She is affiliated with Eastrose UU Fellowship in Gresham.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Restaurant Adventure: 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour.

May 29 WHERE IS PEACE FOUND

Today is a Chalice Circle Sunday, where we sit in an oval, and anyone can share thoughts on the topic of the day. The Circle becomes a personal learning experience, as well as one where we get to know each other better. The sharing will be led by Liana, who says we’ll be looking at places where peace can be found in our world, and why we need that. Suggest environments that have brought you peace from which we can all benefit.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

June 5 **THIS I BELIEVE**

As part of our ongoing series of This I Believe talks given by Wy'east members, **Dan Eggar** shares what touchstones help inform his ever-changing belief system. Raised in a Lutheran family in a small Montana town, Dan left that church as a young adult, and since then has found that the search for principles to guide his own life has become a faith of its own. Dan is on the Wy'east Board.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

June 12 **STANDING ON PRINCIPLE**

Our seven principles are a fundamental part of who we are & what links us together as Unitarian Universalists. Where did they come from? What do they mean? How can we incorporate them into our lives? Our Minister, **Marcia Stanard**, leads this service.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Wy'east Potluck Brunch: 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share.

June 19 **GAY DAY AT WY'EAST**

Today is the Gay Pride Parade in Portland, and many people from Wy'east will be participating in that, but we also wanted to offer an alternative for others. So, we'll have a Chalice Circle service about the presence of the LGBTQ world in our lives, a topic which was suggested by Raul. We're also aiming to have an age-appropriate religious education class on this subject for our little ones.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

June 26 **BEYOND TOLERANCE**

The **Rev. Tara Wilkins** serves as Executive Director of the Community of Welcoming Congregations and is a member of the United Church of Christ. She is often a guest lecturer at colleges and universities and leads workshops in Reclaiming the Feminine, Sexuality and Spirituality and the Welcoming Church Movement. She and her wife, Carole, have 6 adult children, 4 grandchildren and 2 on the way.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education (Pre-K-8th Grade): Children attend the beginning of the service, and then go to class. Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers.

Social Hour: Join us for refreshments after the service.

Restaurant Adventure: 11:40 a.m. Location to be announced during social hour.