

Minister's Message

Rev. Darlene Strickland



Years ago, I taught a preschool class of 4 year olds. When the year ended, I created a graduation program with the theme, "When I Grow Up."

Each child decided what they would like to be when they grew up. There were nurses, firemen, doctors, ballerinas, and the list went on.

On the evening of their graduation, each child arrived decked out in their "When I Grow Up" gear. I gathered them backstage and carefully rehearsed their short lines and songs. They were ready and raring to go.

In small groups, they took their turns on the stage and gave charming, well-rehearsed presentations. Everything was

moving along as planned until the three little nurses stepped forward and began their routine. They started on cue, but right in the middle of their presentation, Deidra, one of the 4-year-old nurses, surprising and loudly began singing and dancing the Hokey-Pokey. No kidding. The other girls looked to me for guidance, but I was more surprised and befuddled than they. Within seconds, the other two joined in, and all three nurses had abandoned their script and were now doing the Hokey-Pokey. In less than a minute, all of the parents and attendees joined in and the entire room "put their whole self in" and did the Hokey-Pokey.

It was a big hit. The audience assumed it was part of the program, and they loved it. However, I had no idea what inspired Deidra to spontaneously

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do the Hokey-Pokey smack dab in the middle of our “When I Grow Up” graduation program. When I asked Deidra, “Why,” she replied, “Why not... wasn't it was fun?”

A few years after the event, I was praying and meditating about a complicated decision in my life. While meditating, I suddenly had a vivid recollection of the Hokey-Pokey event and I experienced a powerful “aha” realization. The Hokey-Pokey is about one simple and profound thing: putting your Whole Self in. Is there any better time to “put your whole self in” than during a program about what I'll do when I grow up? Deidra was intuitively dancing to the tune of her soul that evening. This “aha” experience left me with a sense of calmness and clarity about the decision I needed to make.

Life is continually bidding us to put our Whole Self in. Again and again, like the hero's journey, we let go of the familiar; embark on a new endeavor; uncover, discover and activate something new within our self; and return to offer a more authentic and enlightened version of our Whole Self to our world.

The invitation to come to Unity of Edgewood has again afforded me the opportunity to put my Whole Self in. Since arriving in Tacoma, I've been asked numerous times, “Why are you moving from Maui to Washington?” Before I can even reply, they continue. “It rains a lot here... I hope you'll like it. Wow... living in Maui... that must have been

wonderful”.

My response to this legitimate question is simple. “My soul led me to Maui, and now my soul brings me here.” That usually gets a mystified nod of acceptance and ends the discussion. Really, what more is there to say?

I've learned to clearly discern and follow the promptings of my soul, and I do so with gusto by putting my Whole Self in. Thus, I am eager for you to know that I am clearly and powerfully guided to be here with you. I have a strong sense of marvelous and miraculous things on the horizon. As a spiritual community, your level of unity, clarity and intention brought us together in record time. Thank you, God.

I am eager and honored to join you as your Senior Minister. I have deep respect and appreciation for Rev. Steve and each previous minister who has blessed Unity of Edgewood with their love, vision and sacred service. I am absolutely thrilled to be working with Rev. Sherry and the entire staff and leadership team. Most importantly, I thank God for the crystal-clear guidance and enthusiastic desire to be here...right now...living my bliss with you. I know we will create many lasting memories and experience great works of Spirit together... n Unity.

Now, shall we put our Whole Self in and offer our unique gifts to our world? Why not...that really is what it's all about!

*With warm aloha,
Rev. Darlene Strickland*

FROM THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Summertime

by Rev. Sherry Schultz

I remember running through the sprinkler, occasional runs to the ice cream truck and hot summer nights looking at the stars. Childhood for me was the cottage “up north” where my great grandfather spent his summers, playing with our cousins down the road and dressing up like the Virgin Mary. Really. Now summers are busy, just like the rest of the year, with work, driving kids to soccer, and keeping some semblance of order around the house. For some, it’s high tech all year – keeping up with email, carrying the laptop to the local WiFi coffee shop, cell phones (now complete with hands free devices in the car). Whatever happened to lazy, sultry, summer afternoons? This month, I give myself the gift of visiting dear friends and family for two weeks, and do you know what we do? As little as possible: beach walks every day, watching movies many nights and books. I need a summer with a few good books tucked into the airplane bag. You’ve seen them everywhere, but here’s mine...the “I-want-to-read-at-least-some-of-them” booklist for summer 2010:

An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor
Reflections of an Episcopalian priest, wordsmith and eternal seeker



When the Heart Waits by Sue Monk Kidd

Written by the author of *The Secret Life of Bees*, an autobiographical look at spirituality from the view at mid-life.

Old Age in a New Age: The Promise of Transformative Nursing Homes by Beth Baker

Nonfiction, about groundbreaking care of the elderly.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

A novel about Black women in the south who raised the babies, ran the households and survived with faith and strong bonds with each other.

Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance by Atul Gawande

A *New York Times* bestselling author, Gawande writes about the shortcomings of the medical world and his thoughts about how to improve them.

It's Always Possible: Transforming one of the Largest Prisons in the World by Kiran Bedi

True story of an Indian woman who believed that change was possible and prisoners deserve to be treated with kindness. Remarkable.

The Enigma of Anger: Essays on a Sometimes Deadly Sin by Garret Keizer

Happy, delicious summer reading!

UNITY PRAYER MINISTRY

LET US PRAY WITH YOU!

Unity's Prayer Ministry supports you 24 hours a day! When you ask for prayer support, we pray with you and for you. We also send your prayer request to Silent Unity at Unity Village, MO, where it is held in prayer for 30 days.

To request a prayer for yourself or a loved one:

- Contact Rev. Darlene or a Chaplain following the Sunday Service or call (253) 446-1000.
- Place your request in the Prayer Box in the sanctuary.
- Call our Prayer Line to hear an inspirational message and leave a prayer request. Edgewood/Pierce County residents call (253) 460-5244.
- Email prayer request: praywithme@earthlink.net
- Silent Unity, Unity Village, Missouri: (816) 969-2000. If you have no means of paying for the call, dial (800) 669-7729. All prayer requests are confidential.

CHAPLAINS AT YOUR SERVICE

Our Mission...

By creating a sacred space we promote peace and harmony through a prayerful ministry, expressing God's light, love and word."

If you have a prayer need, our own Chaplains are available on Sundays following the service to pray with you. Or, you may leave a prayer request on our prayer line or even email a prayer request to a Chaplain (see above).

UNITY CARES

Our Unity Prayer Ministry, our Congregation and Silent Unity holds the following people and their businesses in prayer:

AUGUST: Jim and Beverly Sketoe, Melodie Slocum, Cathy Smeltzer, Audrey Smith, Serni Solidarios, Bill and Cherie Spies, Alice and Virgil Spilker, Larry Squires, Stella Stamper, Denise Steed

SEPTEMBER: J.L. Stoltz, Nellie Street, Kami Sullivan, Kathy Swanson, Kathy Talley, James Taylor, Steven Taylor, Thomas Teal, Rebecca Thrapp

SILENT UNITY AFFIRMATIONS AND PRAYER

Guidance: God, You are my source of wisdom. Your spirit guides me, Your love enfolds me, and Your light inspires me.

Healing: Dear God, I am open and receptive to Your healing power. Your light and life energize every cell of my being, and I am grateful.

Prosperity: You are my source, dear God, and in Your presence every need is met. Thank You for Your overflowing goodness that blesses me and those I hold dear.

Harmony: God, Your loving light permeates my life with peace. Thank You for guiding me into the light of understanding, acceptance, and love

World Peace: The spirit of love unites every heart, blessing the planet with peace.

Inner Peace: God, Your presence calms me, quiets the storms around me, and leads me to a place of perfect peace. As I center myself in Your peaceful presence, I let go of every concern and relax in the safety of Your love.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITHIN IS MY
CONSTANT COMPANION THAT GUIDES
ME IN MAKING RIGHT CHOICES.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND UNITY?

Circle of Friends. Ladies, pull out your pencils and start circlin' those calendar dates now.

First up will be a summertime revival of Retreaters and other friends of the Circle, held in Julie's extravagant backyard—complete with fire pit—on Saturday, **August** 14 (or 21, depending on the coin toss). Bring your camp chair, your potluck dish, and most important, your spirit of fun!

At the first of our regular monthly meetings, on Monday, **September** 13, Maxine Erickson will help us travel from our left brains to our right brains. Come learn all about Zentangles, and in the process help create a piece of community art.

On Monday, **October** 11, Stephanie Allington will use paper people to illustrate a spiritual representation of what our body parts mean.

November is quilt month. Stay after church on the 7th to help create quilt “sandwiches,” and then return Monday evening, November 8, to finish as many quilts as our nimble and not-so-nimble fingers can manage.

How does Saturday, **December** 4, sound for our Christmas get-together this year? If you'd like to host this year, just give Julie or Ginger a jingle (pun intended).

At our **January** 10 meeting, Joanna White-Wolff Dibble will start our new year off with a breath of fresh air, sharing with us her Breath Works expertise.

February holds the promise of our “Second-Ever Spiritual Spa Day” on Saturday the 26th. We will finalize our planning for this signature event at our Monday meeting, on February 14.

Our remaining monthly meetings for the year will fall on **March** 14, **April** 11 and **May** 9. March and April are up for grabs at the time of this writing, so if you have something to share with your Circle of Friends, speak up now, please.

The May 9 meeting will serve as the final planning session for the 2011 Women's Retreat, which will once again be held at the Big Lodge Near Mt. Rainier. Put May 13-15 on your schedules now, and plan to have the time of your lives!

Circle of Friends = Galship that can't be beat!

Meet the Minister. During the month of September, you will have an opportunity to meet the minister in a small group setting. Several different time/place options will be available. Sign-ups will begin on Sunday, August 22.

Stay tuned for upcoming classes and special events!

SUNDAY CELEBRATION SERVICES FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. • (Childcare available)

Children's Ministry, Uniteens and Y.O.U. also at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 15, 2010 • Unity Regional Representative, Rev. Barbara Wilson, joins us for a special service as we officially welcome and receive our new Senior Minister, Rev. Darlene Strickland

Sunday, August 22, 2010 • “The Invitation”
Rev. Darlene Strickland

Sunday, August 29 , 2010 • **Begin a five-week Sunday series, “Unity Rocks – 5 Spiritual Principles to Transform Your Life!”**
Week One – “God Is”
Rev. Darlene Strickland

Sunday, September 5 , 2010 • **Unity Rocks – 5 Spiritual Principles to Transform Your Life: Week Two – I AM”**
Rev. Darlene Strickland

Sunday, September 12, 2010 • **“Unity Rocks – 5 Spiritual Principles to Transform Your Life: Week Two – I Think”**
Rev. Darlene Strickland

Sunday, September 19 , 2010 • **Unity Rocks – 5 Spiritual Principles to Transform Your Life: Week Two – I Pray”**
Rev. Darlene Strickland

Sunday, September 26, 2010 • **Unity Rocks – 5 Spiritual Principles to Transform Your Life: Week Two – I Live”**

Sunday, July 25, 2010 • **“When Illness Heals”**
Rev. Darlene Strickland

In October, we'll begin a 7-week fall book study series.



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