



INSIDE

Minister's Message	2
Get to Know Your Community.....	3
Thoughts	4
CORE Report	4
Event Calendar.....	5

I feel privileged to belong to a Center which encourages personal spiritual practices and growth.

LaRhonda Steele sang with the Friends Gospel Chorus and women's retreat participants.



INSPIRED CHAOS

HUMOR, SINCERITY, LEARNING, COMMUNITY BY JUNE GUMZ

June 30th was Practitioner Sunday. It was also impassioned-pitch-for-the-new-furnace-and-air-conditioner day. In addition, the chorus and women's retreat participants joined in song. To top that, LaRhonda Steele sang with her usual gusto with Linda Rossi and the Friends Gospel Chorus. What a morning! Fans were in evidence everywhere, from special Asian ones to PCSL programs, because of the sweltering heat.

The practitioners brought their spiritual tool box to PCSL. In turn, each practitioner let us know how they used their special tools to further their spiritual development. Their sincerity and knowledge were evident in their individual presentations. It was a wonderful review for the congregation.

I feel privileged to belong to a Center which encourages personal spiritual practices and growth; one which includes humor, sincerity, life-long learning and community. How many centers/churches do you know that would pitch for a furnace/air conditioner with an original song about 12" oscillating fans? PCSL did. Then there was a real tool chest held overhead for all to see which was filled with "spiritual" tools (books, checkbooks, mirrors, prayers and lights). You don't see that everywhere. PCSL has one.

Practitioner Sunday was a little chaotic but definitely inspired. What was with all the balloons in the back of the sanctuary?



The practitioners brought their spiritual tool box to PCSL.





Rev. Larry King

*I think of the summer as
filled with good weather,
great friends and
spiritual connection.*

ENJOYING THE SUMMER IN COMMUNITY MESSAGE BY REV. LARRY KING

I love summer in the Pacific Northwest. We get to enjoy the vibrant green lifestyle that all that spring rain helped to create. I think of the summer as filled with good weather, great friends and spiritual connection.

This is true at our Center, as well.

This week we'll enjoy the outdoors and friends at our **Annual Picnic** in Peninsula Park. It's "bring-a-friend" Sunday, so we'll get to make new friends even as we have BBQ and hang out together. Rumor has it that the "Pickled Peppers" kitchen band will be there to entertain us, too.

Divine Dining is also in full swing. A couple of the parties have already taken place. The parties combine new and old friends with great food and various entertainments. Have you gotten tickets yet? There's no better way to meet people and make friends. Each party has a unique "theme," but all of them offer the chance to get to know other like-minded people. You can look through a catalog of all the parties at the back of the sanctuary any Sunday.

We're putting finishing touches on the plans for our **Community Retreat** at Menucha, September 13-15. What could be finer to mark the ending of a glorious summer than to spend three days of spiritual retreat in the Columbia Gorge? Menucha is a lovely retreat center and our retreat seems to get better every year. We have labyrinth walks, spiritual workshops, hiking in the gorge, kids' programming and evening's entertainment—there's always something for everyone at our Community Retreat. Find out more or sign up in the back of the sanctuary.

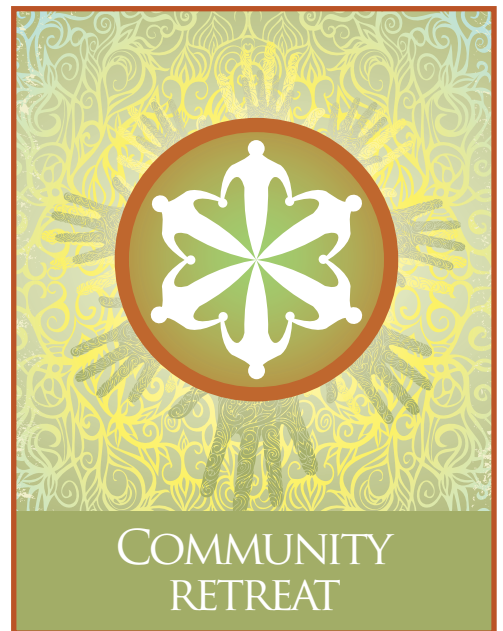
I hope you are enjoying this summer as much as I am.

If you can, make some time to find out more about our community and its many members and congregants. Making new friends is always good—but spiritual community is something special. It provides connection to people who are walking a similar path and who help light the way for personal and group transformation.

Our Center is made up of people—and people are its greatest resource.

Have a great summer, everyone!

Much Love and Many Blessings,



GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

KATHY BATTEN: "Coming from love." BY JUNE GUMZ

Come from love in all you do! That is Kathy Batten's philosophy condensed from her eclectic spiritual search since leaving the Catholic Church at 18. In 2010, a friend asked Kathy if she would like to try out a place she found on the internet. It happened to be the Portland Center for Spiritual Living. At the first service at PCSL she knew she was where she belonged. After taking the *Foundations* class in 2011, "all my random beliefs were pulled together in one set of concepts under Science of Mind."

Kathy retired in 2009 after being "led" to retire early at 62. Her working career was varied and included quality manager, technical writer, planner/scheduler, manufacturing supervisor, and a lot of project management work which was rewarding but stressful.

When I asked her where the most interesting place she has visited, she was very clear, Amsterdam. She worked as an intermediary between a plant in Holland and the base plant in the US for a number of years. She loved the people she worked with who were "so much more laid back than I at the time."

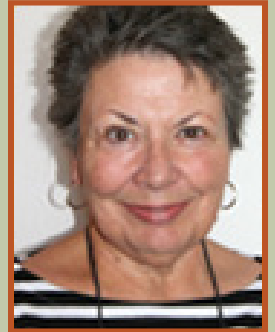
Kathy isn't a hobby person but spends her time supporting women to change their lives. Family connections matter to her. When she isn't helping women or being a family person, reading is a passion. She enjoys self-help books and mysteries but skips the romance novels. In her spare time, she is on the CORE Council at PCSL.

Kathy says "recently I have been impacted greatly by the Dalai Lama, especially his perspective on political issues."

Developing a kind heart does not involve any of the sentimental religiosity normally associated with it. It is for everyone, irrespective of race, religion or political affiliation. It is for anybody who considers themselves a member of the human family.

– the Dalai Lama

Who can argue with Kathy or the Dalai Lama?



Kathy Batten

"Kathy ... spends her time supporting women to change their lives."

Returning from the annual women's retreat, Kathy and other retreat attendees joined the Gospel Chorus to sing "We Let it Be."



THOUGHTS: BREATHE BY REV. SHARON LEE FOLEY

Thirty women from PCSL gathered at Silver Falls Conference Center in June for our ninth annual Celebrating Spirit as Woman retreat. It is a beautiful experience that seems to have a life of its own, each year seeming to build on the previous one to create a community within a community. In our philosophy we teach that there is only One and it is love. This is the experience that is shared at this retreat and it occurs to me to wonder how we as a community of women and the larger PCSL community can live this way for longer than four days once a year.

When we are at Silver Falls we set the intention to show up, to listen, to love. We commit to being in the moment. Something happens as we do this. We begin to exhale. We begin to be here now. We remember who we are. We reflect that back to each other. The environment of safety, warmth and love is palpable. It spoils us. We want this all the time. This feeling of oneness, of unity and harmony.

The thing is – it's not geography. It's not the time of year. It's us – the truth of who we are, that when we let it, just seems to emerge on its own. We just need to allow ourselves to be. Our assignment is just to show up and be fully present. There is a Sufi saying, "Breathe. You can do this." Take the time to breathe.

CORE COUNCIL UPDATE: BY DIANE THOMAS, CHAIR

The CORE Council has met twice since our last Newsletter. Here are updates about a few of our projects:

The new **heating and air conditioning system** is a go! Many thanks to those of you who contributed to this capital project. We've now raised enough money to order and install the new system to heat and cool our sanctuary quietly. We're working with the contractor now for installation dates and the new system may be working in time to "cool down" some of the typical August heat. We still need to raise about \$1,500.00 more to finish our cooling solution for upstairs. If you're interested in helping to cool down our kids, classes and office (and minister), please contact anyone on the Council with your gift or pledge.

We took a re-look at our **budgets** based on decreased tithing during the first half of the year. The budget team decided that we're still close enough to our revenue estimates that no changes are warranted at this time. We will review the budget again in September. We don't want to cut services for our Congregation (such as music, Sunday child care or other essentials) unless a clear trend of lowered giving is in evidence. Respectfully, we ask that our Membership see if they are on board with their pledges so far this year for regular contributions to the Center. Remember that if you need to adjust your annual pledge just give us a call so we can adjust our records. It really helps with the budget process if we know what to expect and we'll keep you posted if we don't catch up with our revenues in the next few months.

In the **maintenance** department we had the parking lot re-coated and re-stripped for safety and longevity. We also finished an audit with the Fire Marshall and are now in complete compliance.

We've finished scheduling and preliminary planning of many of our **fall events**, including: classes and workshops, October's "Partners in Prosperity" program, holiday services and events.

2013 continues to be a year of growth. Our Sunday services are well attended and our building is in great shape. Contact any of our council members with comments and questions. We're always available to you.



Rev. Sharon Lee Foley

*Our assignment is
just to show up and
be fully present.*



Diane Thomas
CORE Council Chair

*Working to create and
maintain a wonderful
environment for
Spiritual growth*

*Opening Hearts
Igniting Minds
Making a Difference*

JOIN US AT THE CENTER

PORTLAND Center for Spiritual Living

6211 NE M L King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97211

PHONE 503.261.0677

E-MAIL info@PCSL.us

CONNECT ON LINE



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NEWSLETTER CREDITS

EDITOR
June Gumz
GreetingsJG@comcast.net

DESIGN
Cheri Smith

CONTRIBUTORS
Rev. Larry King
Rev. Sharon Lee Foley
Diane Thomas

COMING EVENTS • GET THE LATEST UPDATES ONLINE AT www.pcsl.us/calendar

JULY

DIVINE DINING

Feed your body. Feed your soul. Feed your Center.
Ticket Sales Underway

Enjoy your summer with Divine Dining! Support your Center and have a great time with fun, friends and food. Bring your social calendar and be ready to buy tickets for your favorite parties. Tickets available Sundays between first and second services and after second service through July. If you have questions contact Shana Devoreh at 503.704.6992 or sdevoreh@msn.com



15 DEGREES OF COMFORT

Our Heating/Cooling Campaign
Lend Your Support

We're continuing the campaign to upgrade our comfort with a new heating/cooling system. Please join others in raising the funds, as we lower the temperature this summer. For more information contact Pamela Jeanne at 503-720-8999.

AUGUST

RELATIONSHIPS: BEING REAL

Sat. Aug. 10-24, 9:00 am - 3:00 PM
3-Part Workshop



Master Teacher, Rev. Lynn Johnson
Join Lynn in learning how to release old misperceptions about relationships and embrace the freedom to love and be loved. Discover your authentic, loving self!

\$90.00 (\$20.00 non-refundable deposit to reserve your place). Textbook: *Undefended Love* by Parsis & Lyons. Read Chapters 1 & 2 before the first class.

GET INVOLVED

YOUTH CHURCH TEACHER

This is a wonderful chance to have fun with kids while teaching Science of Mind principles. There are two groups of children – younger group is from 0-6 and the older group from 7-12. If you have a desire to work with either group please contact Angelica Jackson 530-228-3515. We are looking for regular and substitute teachers. Both receive stipends to offset expenses.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA OR STORY TO SHARE?

Our newsletter is evolving. I know that PCSL is abundant with creative folks with ideas and stories to share. Our newsletter seems to be a natural place to try them out. I am excited by the prospect of exposing some of our writers to the Community News audience. If you have something to share send it to greetingsjg@comcast.net. – June Gumz, editor

SEPTEMBER

ENCOMPASSING CONNECTION

Our Annual Community Retreat
September 13-15, Menucha

Join us for the fun, the friendship and the spiritual magic that is Menucha. Our annual retreat to the beautiful Columbia Gorge features workshops for both adults and children. There's something for everyone as we explore our spirituality in connection!

\$225 early-bird adult pricing (pd by 8/1)
\$250 regular price
\$ 27 children 7-12 price (under 7, free)
\$ 10 additional charge for special meals.



ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

BREAKFAST WITH THE MINISTER: Sat, 9:00am
To make your reservation or for Info, contact Dee Hartman at 360-831-8033.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP: If you enjoy taking pictures and would like to share your experience with others, sign up on the interest sheet in the sanctuary. For more information call June Gumz 503-653-7132.

TRANSCENDENCE 12-STEP: For information, contact Nancy Ashley at 503-880-0308.

WOMEN OF WISDOM BOOK STUDY: Thur, 10:30am.
For more information, contact Sandra Clark at 971-275-7111.

eSCRIP: Link your Safeway card to eScrip and a small portion of each purchase will support PCSL. Sign up at the back table or call Jessica Livesay at 940-616-4678 for info.

All events held at the Center unless otherwise noted.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

HOSPITALITY TEAM: One Sunday a month, 9 or 11am service. Call Kathy Batten 360-931-0371.

CLEAN TEAM: Cleaning and light maintenance for three hours, once a month.
Contact Anette Bolster 503-970-4116.

FORWARD FLOW-12 MONTHS OF GIVING:
For info call Suki McDonough 360-624-5615.

HEART TO HEART: Support during an illness, loss or other transition. Contact Rev. Sharon Lee Foley 503-668-9806 or Lexy Dillon 503-663-5817.

USED SCIENCE OF MIND MAGAZINES NEEDED:
If you're finished with old copies of the SOM magazine, the Center would like to "recycle" them in our visitor packets. Please drop them off in the Center office or contact Laura Bradley for more information: 503-465-0015.