



Companions on the Path

A monthly publication of West Sound Unity Church

December 2005

The journey continues

By Reverend Max Lafser

Dear Divine Souls:

*May the light of love and devotion
shine brightly in your hearts.*

*May the light of understanding
shine in your minds.*

*May the light of harmony glow in
your home.*

*May the light of service shine forth
ceaselessly from your hands.*

*May your presence light the lamps of
love wherever you go.*

*May your smile, your words, and
your actions be as sweet as the
sweets of this festive season.*

*May the pure rebirth of the Christ
child bring you the true wealth of
peace, health, happiness and love.*

December is one of the most festive and beautiful times of the year. It is the season of new light at a time in the northern hemisphere when it appears to be most dark. In the darkest night of the darkest period, we celebrate the coming of the light!

There are three main aspects of this holiday called Christmas. The first is the celebration of the

light. We decorate our homes and streets with light, and we bring trees indoors and string them with lights and candles. These are only the light of glamour and express our love and joy for beauty. But they are not the only or true meaning of "light." It is a festival of the light which dispels the darkness of our ignorance; it is a festival of the light which shows us the way on our journey through life. The purpose is not to glorify the light. The purpose is to glorify the light of God. "The light that lighteth every being coming into the world." This is the great symbol of the awakened Christ in human consciousness.

The Light of the living Christ is within us. It symbolizes the personal relationship between God and ourselves, ourselves and our families, our families and humanity, humanity and the universe. It should not be so we attract attention from passing cars or so we

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December lessons

December 4: Aiming for the Whole

December 11: Time Span and Stars at Hand

December 18: What Jesus Taught about Christmas

December 25: The Wonder Child

Milestones

Viola McManus made her transition on October 18.

Caroling and teddy bears

Bring your stuffed animals to church in December so they can start soaking up our Unity love and spirit. Join us for holiday fun and cheer on Sunday, December 18. We'll be taking wrapped gifts to our "special family" after church and maybe sing a carol or two. Then we'll go to Belmont Terrace Nursing Home (560 Lebo Blvd.) and sing carols and distribute the teddy bears and stuffed animals.

Questions? Call the church office of contact Kay Watkins at (206) 842-9790.



Mission statement:

West Sound Unity Church is a ministry using the teachings of Jesus Christ to inspire the experience and joyful manifestation of God's unconditional love for all in a safe, loving, and nurturing environment.

(Continued from page 1...The journey continues)

are the envy of the neighborhood. Let the light penetrate inward, for on there will it have lasting benefit. One candle lit with a pure heart, a conscious mind, and an earnest desire to be free from ignorance is far brighter than 10,000 colored lights strung on rooftops and lit in unconscious revelry.

Christmas is a holiday of joy, when we gather with loved ones, celebrating with our family, our friends, and the prosperity God has bestowed upon us.

The second meaning of Christmas celebrated at the end of the old year is a "making room" for the new. The symbol of Jesus being born in a stable, for there was no room for him in the inn, is very interesting.

In order to truly make room for a New Year, new understanding, and new consciousness, we must make room, clean up, and finish with the past. The accumulation of beliefs, debts, and rationalizations that clutter our minds, our consciousness, and our relationships must be put to rest. Then, the inner stillness and uncluttered spaces of the mind make room for new birth or new understanding, where intuitive listening can be born in us to take us into the next phase of our journey. Then the light of Christ can enter all the corners of our lives. We begin new calendars, new diaries, closing the accounts for the past year, and making ready

for the new. We clean our homes and our other affairs. Good start, but the real meaning is cleaning out our hearts, ridding them of darkness and bitterness, making them clean and sparkling places for God to live and manifest. We must be as thorough with ourselves as we are with our homes. Are there any dark corners in our hearts we have avoided for so long? Are we simply "sweeping all the dirt under the rug"? This is an opportunity to rid ourselves of grudges, pain, and anger that clutter our ability to love freely. Let us empty out every nook and cranny, so that His divine light can shine throughout. This is the meaning of our candle lighting, and burning bowl services, releasing the old and starting fresh with the true light of God.

The third, and perhaps the most important, aspect of the Festival of Light is the great message that the birth and life of Jesus came to give us. He said, "I came that ye may have life and have it abundantly. Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your fellow man as yourself." I call this the aspect of wealth and abundance, bestowing these states of being upon all. Christmas is a celebration of prosperity and abundance. All too often, we infer wealth to mean money, gifts...giving and receiving presents. This is not the true wealth in life; this is not what makes us prosperous or happy. There is almost no correlation between the amount of money we earn, the number of possessions

5 Basic Unity Principles

1. God is all good and active in everything, everywhere.
2. I am naturally good because God's Divinity is in me and in everyone.
3. I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe.
4. Through affirmative prayer and meditation, I connect with God and bring out the good in my life.
5. I do and give my best by living the Truth I know. I make a difference!

we buy, and our sense of inner bliss and prosperity.

It is only God's presence in our lives that makes us rich. So this season we must pray to be open and receptive to real prosperity, the prosperity that brings light to our lives and sparkle to our eyes. We must be open to the abundance of faith; we must pray for success in our spiritual lives.

Most of the time we see the baby Jesus wrapped in white swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, white light all around him, pure, Holy, adored, worshiped and loved. He represents our pure potential, unlimited, whole, and ready to meet life head on.

Then there is the Christmas Spirit we have come to identify as

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(Continued from page 2...The journey continues)

Father Christmas, or Santa Claus. Saint Nicholas is typically portrayed in red. What does this mean? Red is the color of action, and he is the giver and deliverer of gifts. This means that in order to obtain the true prosperity in life, we must not only make room for the pure potential and unlimited presence of the Christ in all its holiness within us, but we must engage in action. It is one thing to pray and know the truth and another to engage ourselves in active, good service, that is truly the way to be with Him.

Celebration of the Light! Let our inner world be filled with light and devotion to the reborn Christ and let our outer performance be filled with perfect work, perfect action.

So, in this holy season, let us fill our entire beings with the light of God. Let us clean out our minds and hearts—make a true "fresh start." Let us pray knowing the divine gifts of faith, purity, and devotion are with us always. With these, we will always be always rich, always prosperous, and always fulfilled. Let us celebrate this season of Light as a true "holy day," not just another holiday.

I pray to the Lord Almighty to bestow health, happiness, peace, and prosperity upon you and your loved ones.

With love and blessings,
Max Lafser



Nancy Plankenhorn

From the board

By Nancy Plankenhorn, Treasurer

Greetings everyone!

I cannot believe how fast this year has flown by. Last October,

a group of us went to see Barbara Marx Hubbard. We had the chance to meet Charles and Myrtle Fillmore's granddaughter, Rosemary. I was in awe listening to her talk with Max Lafser on stage about her vision for the future of Unity Village. I sat with a wonderful group of people consisting of the President of Unity, Tom Zender;

Rev. John Wingfield and his wife from the Unity church in Kent; a couple from Issaquah, and a wonderful lady from Gig Harbor.

Barbara is the most fascinating person I have ever met. If you get a chance to hear her speak, I highly recommend it. I was flying high for the next few days, still thinking about all the things she talked about. Good thing I bought her book!

We moved our annual congregation meeting to November 6, so we could close out the year and have the budget ready for you all

to look at and approve for next year. Last year our total income was \$94,358.28, of which \$71,232.64 was the Sunday/mail-in tithes. I compared this to the previous year (fiscal year 2003-2004), when our total income was \$110,707.40. Of that amount, \$84,813.18 was the Sunday/mail-in tithes. That's a difference of \$13,580.54.

After looking at those numbers, I'm sure you are wondering how

we made it through this last year.

Two major things happened: the Mariners fundraiser brought in around \$7,000, and

Richard's leaving dropped the payroll and payroll taxes in half. At the moment, Margie Hyatt is our only employee.

Each month we have included in the newsletter the balance on the current bills, as well as the loan and credit card balances. From October 2004 to June 2005, we really struggled to pay all the bills and taxes. We made up the difference by borrowing on the credit card, which is why the balance is so high. We had a couple of fantastic fundraisers over the summer—the Mariner's games

(Continued on page 4)

Your Board of Trustees

President.....Ron Bruchet
 Vice-President.....Cathe Craigmiles
 Secretary.....Sally Mathes
 1. Treasurer.....Nancy Plankenhorn
 Trustee.....Sally McAllaster
 Trustee.....Carmel Pennington

(Continued from page 3...From the Board) and the rummage sale—and we were able to bring the bills up to date. However, we were unable to put a dent into the credit card balance. At the annual meeting, the congregation approved the Board's putting together a package to get a loan for at least \$30,000, and up to \$100,000. The \$30,000 will pay off the credit card bill and Kitsap bank loan, with a much lower interest rate. Once the package has been put together, we will present it to the congregation.

I am truly confident that all is in divine order and the Universe will supply our every need here at West Sound Unity. We are truly blessed in having Max Lafser come to our church for the next year. He has a wonderful vision for our beautiful church, and I'm looking forward to working with him as a board member.

I want to finish this article by quoting these words from the *Daily Word*: "I unite with others in creating a beacon of peace that illumines the world."

This phrase is special to me, because in the past month at Unity I have been touched by such wonderful people shining their light on me. So let your light shine, uniting with the light of others, so that peace may grow in the world.

Joy with tons of laughter,
Nancy



Youth Ministry

By Evie Diegnan

A Merry
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from all of us in Youth Ministry. This is such a busy time of the year for everyone—finding the perfect tree to trim, baking the holiday treats that fill our homes with yummy smells, and getting in touch with Santa to help him find the one gift that lights up a small face. You are in luck! At 11:30 am, December 4, Santa will be here to gather those lists and pause to have his picture taken with all of you. The teachers will be serving their favorite cookies down in fellowship hall, so please join the fun.

The Youth Ministry will perform the annual Youth Christmas Pageant at 10:00 am, at the December 18 Sunday service—an event we look forward to enthusiastically.

Stepping back in time, October news: The youth, along with Rev. Max, gave us a unforgettable Halloween Sunday Service. We are so proud of our youth. They worked hard preparing for the service, working each Sunday with **Kay Watkins** and **Jamie McAllaster** learning new songs. Thank you, Kay and Jamie.

Another big thanks to **Donna Huntwork** and **Pat Fontaine** for their help with the Boo Bash hospitality and to all masked or unmasked helpers who helped to make the Boo Bash a hit.

The youth, with much love and prayers, hand painted and tied two quilts to give to two homeless children of the Katrina Hurricane—a big blessing from and to all of our youth. If you did not get a chance to view them, there will be pictures of them on the news bulletin board, downstairs.

Barbara and Jamie McAllaster, as new Uniteen teachers, accompanied **Madison Collins** and **Zhara Hess** to the Uniteen retreat. If you get a chance, please enquire about their experience. I know they would love to share their stories.

What a busy year for our youth! I cannot wait to be a part of all the wonderful adventures that await our youth in the upcoming year. Blessings and smiles to each and every one of you who love and support our Youth. May all the seasons of your life be filled with peace and love.

***I am the awareness of generosity flowing forth
1. to everyone and everything everywhere.***



Jim Bryan

In the book store

By Jim Bryan



I recently did a quick survey of the book store. The first things that caught my eye were the

me was the pendant featuring the Buddhist Wheel, the Star of David, Egyptian Ankh, Taoist Yin/Yang, Islam, Christian Cross, Hindu Om Oum, and Unity Wings. What a wonderful and thoughtful gift this would make.

free newspapers—the *Blue Star Gazette* (Community Natural Health & Healing), the *New Spirit Journal* (a Publication of Self-Empowerment, Joyful Co-Creation and Thoughtful Earth Stewardship), and the *Wellness Directory* (*Your Guide to Natural Health Care Resources for Natural Living*). All three are excellent guides to the resources available in our area.

Among the other interesting items are Blessing Stones, Angel-star Confetti, greeting cards, a Louise Hay deck of affirmation cards for creativity, job success and stress-free living, and even a few See's candy bars.

Don't forget your bookstore as a wonderful resource for information, gifts, and even a quick chocolate fix!

Something else that appealed to

December Prosperity

Tithes were sent to the Association of Unity Churches and the NW Region of Unity Churches.

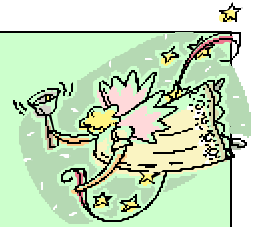


	September	October
Income	7,391.32	7474.85
Expenses	<7,628.67>	<7634.57>
Current bills due	<865.45>	<7183.47>
Net	<1,403.95>	<159.72>
Credit card balance	22,477.78	24,312.35
Kitsap Bank loan	<u>7,757.52</u>	<u>7565.73</u>
Total debt	<u>\$30,235.30</u>	<u>\$31,878.08</u>

Infinite Spirit, open the way for our great abundance in all representations. I draw to me all that belongs to me by Divine Right and West Sound Unity receives magnificent prosperity through grace in miraculous ways.

The Writings of Florence Scovel Shinn

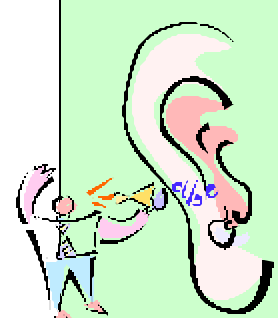
Angel notes



A big thank you to members who have stepped forward to help with the church operations:

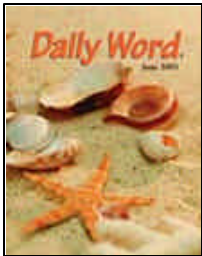
- ◇ **Jim and Charlene Bryan** for offering a month or two of janitorial service so our church is welcoming to us.
- ◇ **Linda Rice** for helping with administrative office tasks.
- ◇ Bouquets and applause to **Daryl Spaddacini** for stepping back into his role as choir director.

We are grateful for the willing gifts of time and talent by these family members and we affirm the abundance of WSUC allowing us to honor people with appropriate remuneration this coming year.



Can you hear me now?

Having trouble understanding the sermon—especially the meditation? Pick up an assistive listening device in the Narthex. It's easy to use. Just turn it on and adjust the volume. You have your choice of a headset, an earbud, or a neckloop (for use with hearing aids that have telecoils). Questions? Ask the greeter or an usher.



Receive daily spiritual guidance

Each month this pocket-sized magazine offers daily spiritual inspiration and practical help through positive affirmations, inspirational stories, Bible verses, and guiding thoughts. What a deal—\$10.95 for one year! Order online: <http://www.unityonline.org> or call 800-669-0282 or write Unity, 1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, MO 64065-0001 or pick up a copy in our book store.



Shop- ping online?

This holiday season, let your friends know that they can help West Sound Unity Church, simply by shopping online at over 600 participating stores!

This year our church will get an extra \$5.00 BONUS donation for each new member who makes a purchase through iGive.com within 45 days of joining. No minimum purchase required! First time shoppers: look for special discounts and free shipping.

Editor: our church is listed under our old name: Unity Church of Bremerton.

We have tea, too!

Come on downstairs after the service. The coffee's good, but the tea's even better.

Meet some new people and stick around to chat with friends. If you'd



like to volunteer one day a month for hospitality, we'd love to have you. Just put your name on the sign-up board outside the kitchen. You don't even have to bake the cook-

Picture Perfect

It's hard to feel like part of a family, to enjoy true fellowship, with folks you don't know from Adam...or Shirley...or Frank. And how can you remember the names from week to week? Being part of our Olan Mills photo directory can make us all feel like the family we desire to be. So get your haircut, pick out an outfit that says, "This is me!" and make your appointment for a photography session so you are included in our church directory.



For participating, you receive a free 8 x 10 portrait and a free directory. You have the option to purchase additional portraits, which will be available before Christmas. And it's easy. Make your appointment online at www.signup.olanmills.com or find the link for "Ezsignup" at www.westsoundunity.org or call the church office for assistance making an appointment. The process is all completed on the day of your appointment; you'll be able to view the proofs of your

photos right away and make your selection of the portrait to appear in the directory and make any optional additional purchase selections.

We can all use some help in connecting new names and faces. That's what makes the photo directory so popular with churches—they are so useful! And you don't have to be an "official member" to participate. We include all who regularly attend in our definition of "family."

Portrait appointments are available at the church on Saturday, December 3, 11:00am - 5:00 pm and Monday, December 5, 3:00 pm - 9:30 pm. And a few people are needed to act as hosts, directing people through the process. It's easy, and our Olan Mills representative will show us how. Please call the church office to share a few hours to help with this fun project. And if you are sort of new, what a terrific way to learn the names of the folks who

Prayer and limitless possibilities

By Deb Jesewitz, Lead Chaplain



It may seem that the Chaplain Program and team have been operating under the radar screen, meaning that we haven't been detectable by obvious measurable means. Reality is that we have been holding "spiritual space" for limitless possibilities, while the physical reality shifted in various ways—such as Richard and Daryl leaving to follow their dreams, and Margie and Max stepping into the space to allow us all to have a sense of those possibilities.

We all believe in the power of prayer; but I know that I sometimes question and test the waters, and it is at those times that my world seems to shake under my feet. I had the opportunity in Brazil to experience many miracles first hand and have come to KNOW upfront and personal the healing power of God working in my life through the power of prayer. Once again I want to reach out and help you remember that this Chaplain Program is in place for you to share your concerns and gratitudes and reinforce that connection to God.

Chaplains are available on Sundays for prayer. We also are available for home and hospital visits for you or your loved ones and for memorial services, com-

munity disaster situations, etc.

I recently completed a "train the trainer" program in Disaster Preparedness Training, and we are exploring how we can be a beacon of light and share this light within our extended community in times of turmoil.

With all that has been happening within the church, and all the ways that we can share our "secret" of the power of prayer with others, we have decided to have another Chaplain training and retreat at my home in January 2006. This will be an opportunity for current Chaplains to "re-up," as well as support anyone else who is called to be a Chaplain. Current Chaplains who decide not to attend will become "Chaplain Emeritus" at that time.

January seems to be a great time for new beginnings and to set our intention for the Chaplain Program and West Sound Unity Church. I hope that in those quiet moments you will listen to God's voice within and see if being a Chaplain is a "fit" for you. If you feel called to serve in this way, please contact me for details.

Have a peaceful and prayerful holiday season. Love and blessings to all!

Deb Jesewitz
253-225-2596
djesewitz@yahoo.com



Happy December birthdays!

12/04 Loyette Fessenden
12/05 Lorene Ward
12/07 Sharon Kuepfer
12/08 Clay Wendorff
12/10 Sally Mathes
12/11 Daniel Dashkovitz
12/12 Joshua Forshaw
12/14 Maurine Howard
12/16 Rob Ladely
12/16 David Mueller
12/17 Kelly Meisner
12/18 Shari Gagner
12/20 Joyce Cowdery
12/20 Susan Shroyer
12/21 Kyle Mueller
12/22 Julie Wilkinson
12/25 Carolyn Schneider
12/25 Paul Mobley
12/28 Penny Allen
12/29 Will Fortier
12/29 Denyell Lee Stapleton
12/29 Joel Watson

Did we miss your birthday? We'd love to recognize your special day. Please contact the office so we can add your name.



I am grateful for divine wisdom that guides me.

December 2005 Activities at West Sound Unity Church

Sunday Service, November 27, 10:00 am
To the Center of the Circle, Rev. Max Lafser

Saturday, December 3, 9:00 am
Join the decorating party at the church, trim the tree, hang the garlands, share the fun and some hot apple cider and treats.

Saturday, December 3, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
Monday, December 5, 3:00 — 9:30 pm
Olan Mills photography sessions at the church for free portraits (one 8 x 10 per family or individual) and church photo directory. Additional photos may be ordered, guaranteed for pre-Christmas delivery. Appointment sign ups available through the church office, at the activity table in the narthex, or online at www.signup.olanmills.com. Just follow the easy registration and scheduling instructions.

Sunday Service, December, 4, 10:00 am
Aiming For the Whole, Rev. Max Lafser
Following the service, our annual Santa Tea and photos with Santa. Tell Santa your wishes for this Christmas season.

Friday, December 9, 7:00 pm
Puget Soundsters Holiday Concert
A holiday season highlight at West Sound Unity as the Soundsters gift us with a festive seasonal concert. Several members of the Soundsters are also members of our church family. Join us for this festive and joyful evening. Hospitality following the concert in the fellowship hall.

Sunday Service, December 18, 10:00 am
Youth Ministry Christmas Pageant
What Jesus Taught About Christmas, Rev. Max Lafser

Saturday, December 24, 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Shepherds and Kings, Rev. Max Lafser
The magic and mystery of the Birth of Christ, joyful Christmas music and the warm glow of candles, faces and hearts alive with the joy of the season.

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 am
Christmas Morning Celebration
The Wonder Child, Rev. Max Lafser

Wednesday, December 28, 7:00 pm
Burning Bowl Service
with Rev. Max Lafser
Let go beliefs and illusions which do not serve your highest purpose and open your heart for new insights, guidance and inspiration. Through the symbolism of fire purification we release the unwanted and create space for new blessings!



About this newsletter: We welcome your articles and information you'd like to share. Please submit written items to the editor, Penny Allen, via e-mail, if possible: pallen@silverlink.net; or phone 360-871-0997. This newsletter may be downloaded from our website in PDF format. If you'd like to receive it by e-mail when an issue is posted, e-mail Margie, Church Coordinator, at unitychurch@qwest.net.

December 2005

I celebrate the birth of Christ's light in me!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9:00 AM Christmas Decorating Party 11:00 AM -5:00 PM Olan Mills Photography
4 11:00 AM Santa Tea & Photos 7:00 PM Eagle Clan Medicine Wheel	5 3:00 PM -9:30 PM Olan Mills Photography 6:30 PM A Course in Miracles	6 7:00 PM Women's AA	7 6:00 PM Mid-week Renewal, 6:00 pm Potluck, 7:00 pm Meditation, 7:30 pm Metaphysic & Unity class	8	9 7:00 PM Puget Soundsters Holiday Concert 	10
11 7:00 PM Eagle Clan Medicine Wheel	12 6:30 PM A Course in Miracles	13 5:30 PM Board Meeting 7:00 PM Women's AA	14 6:00 PM Mid-week Renewal, 6:00 pm Potluck, 7:00 pm Meditation, 7:30 pm Metaphysic & Unity class	15	16	17
18 10:00 AM Youth Ministry Christmas Pageant 7:00 PM Eagle Clan Medicine Wheel	19 6:30 PM A Course in Miracles	20 7:00 PM Women's AA	21 6:00 PM Mid-week Renewal, 6:00 pm Potluck, 7:00 pm Meditation, 7:30 pm Metaphysic & Unity class <i>Winter begins</i>	22	23	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service
25 7:00 PM Eagle Clan Medicine Wheel <i>Christmas</i> 	26 6:30 PM A Course in Miracles	27 7:00 PM Women's AA	28 7:00 pm Burning Bowl Service	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 



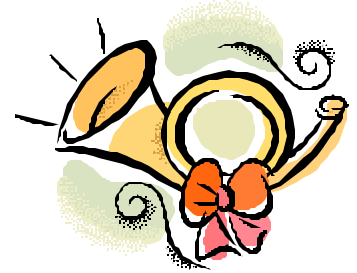
December 2005

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Check this box to stop receiving this newsletter. Write "Return to Sender" & return to your mail box.

Please call 360-479-1757 for address changes.

West Sound Unity Church Ministry Services

Prayer Ministry

Call the church office anytime, day or night, with your prayer request and we will inform our prayer circles and Silent Unity.

Hospital Visitations

Please advise us if you or someone you know has entered the hospital. Local hospitals usually do not inform us when someone is admitted, even though you may disclose your church affiliation.

Weddings, Christenings and other Services

Our minister is available for a variety of services customized to your needs. Please call the church office for more information.

Personal Consultations

Our minister is available in matters of spiritual guidance. Please call the church office to schedule an appointment.

Sunday Service and Youth Ministry Schedule

The Sunday Service is 10:00 am. Our Youth Ministry is also 10:00 am and includes Nursery—0 to 3 years old, Youth Ministry—3 years through grade school, Uniteens—Jr. High, and Youth of Unity—High School.

Hours and contacts

Church office - Wednesday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; other times by appointment. Bookstore and Lending Library hours: Sundays - before and after service and during office hours. **Telephone numbers:** Office (360) 479-1757; Bookstore (360) 479-1757; Fax (360) 479-1758 (call first); **E-mail:** Unitychurch@qwest.net

Website: <http://www.westsoundunity.org/>