



A VIEW FROM THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Whole, Holy Ball of Wax

On Friday, May 4, more than 100 members of the Heritage Society enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Ann Nelson's cooking team as well as an enlightening presentation by former U.S. Sen. Dave Durenberger on the future of health care delivery in America. The Heritage Society

gala, celebrating the 182 individuals who have made planned gifts to Unity Church, welcomes new members and memorializes those who have died each year.

Those at this year's gala ranged from recent to fifth-generation UUs, and all had a chance to respond to two questions. Here's a compilation of the responses to each:

1. Why is the future of Unity Church important to you?

This church has been the voice of liberal religion, for justice in St. Paul for 125 years. Unity Church-Unitarian is a salvation, a bastion of fine thought in a world that by and large does not support it. It offers a teaching and transformative faith that advocates wholeness, integrity, service and joy. It helps people be who they yearn to be, to claim their values and live them. We live through our children. Liberal religious thought and practice must continue, as must our legacy of social activism, a counterforce to the religious right. The church was here for me and mine, a place to nourish my soul, where it was safe to dissent, a place of connection. It cultivates spirituality that is honest, forthright, difficult.

There must be an opportunity to choose the only non-creedal, liberal, spiritual, intellectual, welcoming church I've had the fortune to discover. It is (or can be) the answer to the world's problems, the model for a community that works together with concern for others beyond its membership. Unity Church must be an ongoing force, a presence of enlightened, self-discovery, brutally honest inquiry into the nature of God, for the open-minded awareness of a variety of spiritual paths. It must pass on the values of peace, justice, fairness, finding personal ways to serve, support for balancing in family/work life.

The vitality, size, history, plurality, liberal theology, and vision of personal and global transformation must carry forward for me, my family, my neighborhood, our city, our country, and world. We dare not fence the spirit.

2. With what do you identify most closely about Unity Church?

Among UU congregations, Unity Church truly embraces diversity and a wonderful understanding of its moral ownership. We identify with "so many things" and with "everything" in this ABC of Unity Church values:

- ♦ acceptance
- ♦ adult spirituality
- ♦ antiracism efforts
- ♦ the bell
- ♦ connection with the greater community
- ♦ Coming of Age
- ♦ discourse
- ♦ eclecticism
- ♦ embracing diversity
- ♦ enlightenment from ministers and each other
- ♦ environmental stewardship and Green Sanctuary
- ♦ the evolution of belief
- ♦ exploration of our individual gifts, passions, values, and experience
- ♦ good food
- ♦ finding the language and content of a personal theology and the way to live it
- ♦ freedom
- ♦ friendship
- ♦ generosity of spirit
- ♦ global awareness
- ♦ heritage, roots, tradition
- ♦ intergenerational community
- ♦ lack of dogmatism
- ♦ like-minded folks
- ♦ love in action
- ♦ Mano a Mano
- ♦ metaphor and symbolism
- ♦ ministers back to Frederick May Eliot influencing, inspiring, and educating
- ♦ making a better neighborhood, city, county, world
- ♦ models for the qualities and values we wish to emulate
- ♦ moments of awe and reverence
- ♦ more spiritual atmosphere
- ♦ music
- ♦ open-mindedness
- ♦ opportunities for fellowship and community service
- ♦ outreach programs
- ♦ people
- ♦ poems
- ♦ questions
- ♦ religious education
- ♦ readings
- ♦ recognition of truth in world religions
- ♦ relationships
- ♦ search for how the Mystery works in us
- ♦ sense of a caring community

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The Merging of Waters

Be sure to collect water from your journeys this summer. On Sunday, September 9, the entire congregation will gather together in an intergenerational service and merge the waters of the world in the first service of the church year.

SURVEY RESULTS / EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Some Salient Findings...

Notes about the 2007 Congregational Survey

by Ken Gordon on behalf of the Board of Trustees

A congregational survey was conducted in April and May of 2007. This survey was first introduced in 2004 and has been conducted annually since then.

THE SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The survey instrument is a fine-tuned, single-focus device for gathering information about program development and effectiveness in Unity Church. It is important to keep this nature of the survey device clearly in mind. There are many other aspects of the Unity Church congregation that you might like to explore and comment upon but this survey is intended and designed solely to examine program development and effectiveness in Unity Church. As a matter of fact, the content of the survey items is largely derived from the "Ends" statement which has been adopted by the congregation of Unity Church to characterize the congregation's reason for being.

A second characteristic of the survey instrument is that, with only a few exceptions, the items have remained constant and unchanged since 2005. If you have faithfully responded to the survey across these several years, you may have a dull sense of unimaginative repetition in the survey items. Your sense of repetition is correct but the repetition is not due to a lack of imagination among the item writers. The items have been retained unchanged so that response to any specific item can be compared from year to year.

The survey instrument consists of two sets of statements. For the first 23 statements, respondents are asked to choose among six levels of agreement or disagreement for each statement. For the second set of 36 statements, respondents are asked to rate each statement on a scale of 1 through 10 regarding the extent to which each statement describes the respondent where 1 = not at all and 10 = to a very high degree. In each of these two sets of items, responses to the items can subsequently be assigned numerical values or weights which then can be manipulated arithmetically to explore a) how a specific item performs across time as well as b) how selected items compare with each other. At the same time, caution must be maintained in that assigning weights or numerical values may introduce distortions.

THE RESPONDENT PROFILE

If the truth be told, people can spend great gobs of time examining the results of the congregational survey. The combinations of things to look at are indeed daunting. What follows here, however, is an attempt to identify some broad-stroke summary of the dominant findings derived from the 2007 congregational survey.

Some generalizations are in order regarding the survey respondents and response rates. The number of respondents increased substantially (up 42%) from 241 responses received in 2006 as compared with 342 responses in 2007. Nevertheless, the 2007 responses were less than the 407 and 438 responses received in 2004 and 2005. It is worth noting that the e-mail survey technology was introduced for 2007.

The profile of survey respondents has remained almost rock steady through all four years. Two thirds are female; the average age is 53 +; respondents have attended Unity for 16 years; they attend Sunday Service 2.5 times per month; and 99% contribute financially to Unity. There was some speculation that introduction of the e-mail survey technology might modify the respondent profile but such change did not occur this year.

There are two areas that showed impressive change among survey respondents in 2007. One of these was in the number of respondents who reported having contributed volunteer time

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The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

Karen Pike

July 13, 1944 —
June 10, 2007

In Remembrance

David Marvan Mason

brother of Lucille Heaton
uncle of Mary Kaul

Shirley Youngblom

sister of Bernice Hanson

Everett P. Eichten

father of Pauline Eichten
grandfather of Remi Eichten

Jeanette Lowry

mother of Philip Lowry
grandmother of Nicola, Weston
and William Lowry

Grace M. Jefferson

aunt of Priscilla Weissner

Dr. Richard O. Heilman

former member of Unity Church

SURVEY RESULTS / LABOR DAY

Some Salient Findings... *(continued from page 2)*

with Unity during the previous 12-month period. The response rates were as follows:

74% (2007) 72% (2006) 63% (2005) 61% (2004)

Similarly impressive gains occurred in the number of respondents who reported that they were current members of Community Outreach Teams:

44% (2007) 34% (2006) 25% (2005) 21% (2004)

SOME SALIENT FINDINGS

There were some dynamic changes in the ratings of several survey items in 2007 as compared with 2004. These were defined as items in which the mean ratings increased by one full step on the 1 through 10 scale. These "dynamic change" items were:

- ♦ Understand the relationship between your own spiritual development and your actions in the area of social justice (up by 1.1)
- ♦ Believe your actions contribute to the well being of Unity Church (up by 1.1)
- ♦ Work on issues related to social justice on an ongoing basis (up by 1.0)
- ♦ It seems noteworthy that two of these three "most dynamic" items reflect increase and expansion of social justice behavior.

There were several very interesting aspects of those items which required respondents to choose among six levels of agreement or disagreement for each statement.

It seems fair to observe that responses overall tended to avoid extreme statements. In general, both agreement and disagreement were stated as being "mild" in nature. With this caveat, it is perhaps useful to examine some items where most agreement and disagreement occurred.

One way of pursuing this line of inquiry is to examine those items for which the "Strongly Agree" response occurred most frequently. This turned out to include a set of four items for which 20% or more of the respondents chose the "Strongly Agree" response. The four items are as follows:

- ♦ I find beauty in my worship. (42%)
- ♦ I find inspiration in my worship. (38%)
- ♦ I find hope in my worship. (34%)
- ♦ The people of Unity Church-Unitarian are engaged in the betterment of their community and the world through opportunities the church provides. (25%)

This seems to be a set of statements well worth pondering even while maintaining due respect for the magnitude of agreement.

Another interesting facet of the agree/disagree findings has to do with the strongest showing of any degree of disagreement with a specific item. This summary procedure simply lumped together all of the expressions of disagreement – Strongly Disagree,

Disagree, and Mildly Disagree – without regard to frequencies or weightings.

This procedure singled out one statement as eliciting the greatest frequency of all levels of disagreement response of any kind. The statement is:

- ♦ The people of Unity Church are diverse.

Forty-one percent of respondents expressed some level of disagreement with this statement in 2007 as compared with 39% of respondents who disagreed in 2006. There has been some lively discussion among survey respondents as to the meaning of this statement as well as the frequency of disagreement with the statement.

ONE NEW ITEM

The 2007 survey instrument included one new item. It posed the question:

- ♦ How likely are you to recommend Unity Church to a friend or relative?

Respondents were asked to choose a response on a scale of 1 through 10 where 1 = not at all likely and 10 = extremely likely. The mean response to this item was 8.8 which has been interpreted as strong support for Unity Church.

SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

There is an immense wealth of detailed information in the survey results and it deserves careful thought. In addition, there was an unanticipated outpouring of written commentary in the survey returns – especially among the respondents who replied by e-mail. These comments have been transcribed and cover seven pages of 8-point print.

Thank you from New Orleans

Thank you, everyone, those who came and whose who didn't. God is good all the time. Each and everyone of you came into our lives when we had and have a great need. I pray for all of you – your kindness, your generosity, your love. I am humbled by all your kindness. I think of you all as angels. Keep doing what you're doing. I see your stars in heaven.

Peace and love from the Prichons
Rod Sr. Samantha Rod Jr.
Mary and Camille

God bless and keep you all. Amen.

For stories and pictures of Unity Church's New Orleans pilgrimage to help with the rebuilding effort, see the May and June issues of the commUNITY Newsletter.

The Church Building — A Project Beautiful

by John Lentz, Facilities Manager

The building that Unity Church–Unitarian calls home is one of the most beautiful in the city of St. Paul, but in past efforts to maintain it much of its beauty was covered, obscured, and nearly neglected.

The Facilities Department at Unity Church is now aggressively making up for those past decisions. We have a staff committed not only to maintenance, but also professional hospitality, beautification, and enhancement. We invite the congregation to actively participate in the loving care of the church building.

Beginning this month, the Facilities Department will offer many opportunities for members and friends of Unity Church to share their time and talents. There will be a variety of projects throughout the church using a variety of skill sets; we can almost guarantee that we will teach you new skills that you can take with you.

We invite you and your family to come by one or more of these open project sessions as your schedule allows. (And if your skill tends toward the culinary, we always need someone in charge of snacks and refreshments!)

Upcoming Project Days:

TUESDAYS	5:00 to 9:00 p.m.	August 7 and 21
WEDNESDAYS	5:00 to 9:00 p.m.	August 1, 15, and 29
THURSDAYS	5:00 to 9:00 p.m.	August 9 and 23
SUNDAYS	12:00 to 4:00 p.m.	August 5 and 19

Our goal is to prepare the church building for the congregation's return in the fall, and to have people who have been away all summer be amazed at the beauty of the building and its grounds. To keep informed of what projects we will be doing, contact John at the Church Office — 651/228-1456 x100 or john@unityunitarian.org. We will provide the tools and materials necessary to have a successful, meaningful experience for you and your family.



Religious Education News

9th Grade Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer advisors are needed to help teach this year's ninth grade youth in our fun and important *Our Whole Lives* and *Coming of Age* programs! *Our Whole Lives* is a comprehensive sexuality education program rooted in the principles of our faith. The *Coming of Age* experience helps our youth clarify and articulate their spiritual beliefs. Adult advisors that make a good fit have some experience with teens, have been members of our church for at least a year, and have the time to commit to Sunday afternoons for part of the church year. Knowledge or experience in the areas of health or spiritual development would be particularly helpful assets for the respective programs as well.

The ninth grade year is a pivotal year in the lives of our youth. It is during this year that many youth determine whether they want to remain active members of our church community! If you have interest in volunteering or learning more, contact Joseph LaFerla, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at the Church Office.

Early commUNITY Newsletter Deadlines

Normally, newsletter deadlines are the 14th of each month. However, the September commUNITY newsletter will have an early deadline to provide for easy transition between the incoming and outgoing Coordinators of Communication. Here are a list of deadlines for the next few months:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
September 2007	August 7
October 2007	September 14
November 2007	October 14



commUNITY

commUNITY is the church newsletter of Unity Church–Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 14th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30/year.

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MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

Generosity Ministry Team Update

OFFERING RECIPIENTS THROUGH LABOR DAY:

August 5 / August 26: Microgrants

Microgrants is a Twin Cities nonprofit organization that gives small grants to selected low-income persons for training, classes, equipment, tools, or other means of assistance to follow their goals and achieve a better standard of living. Microgrants was featured at a Wellspring Wednesday presentation last winter. Unity Church member Phil Morton currently volunteers with the organization, assisting with the procedures for tracking grants and evaluating results.

August 12 / September 2: Bridging Inc.

Founded in 1987, Bridging Inc. is a Twin Cities nonprofit organization that provides the economically disadvantaged in transition with quality furniture and household items free of charge following a home visit and referral from a registered agency. Bridging Inc. bridges the gap between those who have and those who do not, benefiting those in desperate need including refugees, immigrants, victims of family violence, natural disasters and the homeless.

August 19: The Family Place

The Family Place is a daytime center located in Saint Paul, providing intake and assessment services to homeless families with children. The center opens when the evening overflow church shelter closes and other drop-in shelters for single adults are not appropriate for children. Meals are offered three times a day, seven days a week. Families receive assistance in life skills, educational and vocational training; referrals to community resources and services and support for families to move into transitional housing or to maintain permanent housing. There will be a one-to-one match for this offering from an anonymous donor in honor of Bartlett Baker, a longtime member of Unity Church who died in 2005.

Heart to Heart:

A Couples Enrichment Weekend

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2007

Heart to Heart is a program designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. This will be their 13th annual retreat. All couples committed to their partners and to their relationships are welcome — both same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. Space is limited, so register early. For more information, visit the Heart to Heart website at heart.mn.cx or contact Laurel and Eric Lein at 651/227-0486.

A Unity Church Budget Update

After the lively and impassioned conversation about the proposed budget for Unity's current fiscal year, we want to provide an update on budget revision since the day of the annual meeting. In the approved budget, staff benefits were reduced in two areas. Many members of the congregation expressed concerns about a 20% employee contribution toward health insurance premiums and reduced the retirement plan benefit from 10% to 5%. These budget cuts were at the center of discussion at the annual meeting and beyond. We have revised the budget as follows:

- We have reinstated the 10% pension benefit for all eligible church employees.
- We are still requiring a 20% employee contribution toward health insurance premiums, but those deductions are being taken on a pre-tax basis and we have raised the level of our flexible health care spending plan to allow staff members to pay more out-of-pocket expenses on a pre-tax basis.
- We are considering a plan for restructuring our facilities staff to allow for more livable wages.

Our Coordinator of Community Outreach Ministries position is currently budgeted at 30, rather than 40 hours per week this year. An 18-month grant extension will be considered by The Saint Paul Foundation at their August board meeting.

The remainder of the budget remains as it was approved. The approved budget and an accompanying narrative can be found on the church website at www.unityuniarian.org.

May '08 Trip to Romania for "Triangle Meeting"

In May 2008, our partner church in Homorodszentpeter will host members of its two partner churches — Unity Church in Saint Paul and Bilthoven in the Netherlands — for a special week to discuss what it means to be in cross-cultural relationship and live in peace with our neighbors. Centering around Pentecost, an important Unitarian holiday for our partner church, the week will also include three days for 'KALAKA,' a shared work project, and preparation for the feasting and celebration typical to the celebration of Pentecost.

We have been invited to the village from May 6 to May 14; trip extensions for Unitarian pilgrimage may be available. More details will be forthcoming, including cost estimates, and possible travel 'scholarships.'

Please consider this marvelous fellowship opportunity. To express interest or for more information as it becomes available, contact: Ray Wiedmeyer at 651/699-5590 or Pat Haff at the Church Office.

MUSIC / COUPLES ENRICHMENT

Music Program Offerings

Contact Ruth Palmer at the Church Office for more information about any of these offerings.

Children's & Youth offerings:

Children's Choir (Grades 1–5) Kathleen Radspinner, director
Sunday mornings 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. – Chapel

Children's Musical (Grades 5 & 6) Sandy Waterman, Michael Lee, Joyce Paxton, directors. Concentrated rehearsals span a six-week period culminating in a performance weekend in late February or early March.

Youth Music Ensemble (Grades 6–8) Ruth MacKenzie, director.
Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. service in the Ames Chapel — offered as a module of choice in the R.E. program offerings.

Adult offerings:

Unity Singers: an auditioned 16-voice ensemble – Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. The first Fall Rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 11.

Unity Singers small ensembles: Quartet, Octet, etc. – developed from and during Unity Singers rehearsal times

Unity Choir: a non-auditioned ensemble of 60 to 75 voices – Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. First Fall Rehearsal will be Thursday, September 6.

Unity Choir Ensemble: Smaller divisions of Unity Choir — often occurring on Sundays when the choir splits between services, memorial services, various occasions, etc.

Carmina Singers is a short-term, high-g geared 'special project' ensemble open to all choir members and congregation members only able to commit to limited rehearsal times – three successive Mondays (TBA), 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Concerts with a Cause: These one-hour concerts will be offered periodically throughout the year followed by a reception and social time. Watch for additional information in newsletters this fall.

Unity Church Volunteer Musicians: As always Unity Church looks forward to hearing from Unity musicians in various venues — Especially for Wellspring Wednesday Worship Services.

Guest Musicians: We always look forward to inviting outstanding musicians to participate in our services and are enriched by the presence of their expertise.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ART

Robert W. Peterson

Robert Peterson's subject matter most often will determine the technique or style for his drawings or paintings. The practice of working on site with ink or colored stock, refining and repainting back in the studio has been the most satisfying approach the past 50 years. Studying during the pinnacle of the abstract expressionism, influences of Max Beckmann, Willem de Kooning and Yasuo Kuniyoshi continue to be reflected in these selected paintings.

Robert studied at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Pratt Institute of New York City and the Art Students' League, New York. He is represented in numerous private collections, three selections in the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and two selections in the Minnesota Museum of American Art in St. Paul. He has exhibited at the Minneapolis Art Institute, Walker Art Center, the Swedish Museum in Chicago, the Minnesota Museum of American Art and several private galleries.

An industrial designer, retired Vice President and partner of Heritage Communications, he has served six years on the Board of the Minnesota Museum of American Art; elected Chairman in 1992, is a past Docent of the Minnesota Museum of American Art and a volunteer at the Minneapolis Art Institute.

The Whole Holy Ball of Wax... from page 1

- ◆ sermons
- ◆ services
- ◆ singing on Sunday in the pews
- ◆ sharing
- ◆ small group social outreach
- ◆ small spiritually-focused groups
- ◆ social issues
- ◆ a source of unexpected community—Unity Choir
- ◆ space for deep sharing
- ◆ spiritual challenges and growth
- ◆ teaching/theology challenge to be spiritually alive
- ◆ values and mission aligning with my own moving in that direction
- ◆ welcoming persons of all nationalities, races, genders, and beliefs.

One member summed it up this way: "I look forward to watching Unity grow into its beautiful vision and to being a part of the journey. I am so grateful to this congregation for all we do together." Another was grateful simply for "the whole ball of wax."

You too can become a member of the Heritage Society. It's as easy as directing that a part of your life insurance proceeds, a percentage of your savings, or a specific sum be left to the church—there are no dollar requirements or limits, and there are other ways to make a planned gift. Contact Barbara Hubbard at the Church Office for details. Why do it? As one member wrote, "Without Unity Church, there's no alternative!"
— Ellen Green

ART / SUMMER SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM

August Whole Farm Orders

Buy meat, cheese, produce and much more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up right at Unity from Whole Farm Cooperative. For this month's pickup, place an order with Whole Farm at wholefarmcoop.com or 320/732-3023 by Friday, August 10. Please provide an extra day for fresh fruit and vegetable orders.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, August 15. Invoices are enclosed with your order. Pay by sending a check for the invoice amount directly to Whole Farm. To find out more, stop by the table in the Parish Hall or contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

Unity Singles Group

Are you an adult single ages 35 and over interested in dining, socializing, and experiencing cultural activities with each other? Join their group by contacting Bonnie Reiland 612/788-2149 or Rick Ahern at 651/636-5836.

Upcoming Sunday Services... from page 12

August 26

"First Lines" — Richard Foushée

First lines will explore the importance of beginnings and what it means to have a beginner's mind.

Richard Foushee has been a member of Unity Church for about a dozen years. He is president of Hall-Foushée Communications, which specializes in health communications planning and production for public health interventions and clinical studies. He has been a student of the Urasenke tradition of Japanese Tea for more than 20 years.

September 3

"Labor in the Pulpit" — Michael Kuchta

Michael Kuchta is currently on staff with the Lakes and Plains Regional Council of Carpenters and Joiners. He was previously the editor of the Union Advocate newspaper in St. Paul. Mr. Kuchta is a member of Our Saviours Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis, and is one of the core trainers of Labor in the Pulpits speakers. He's spoken to a number of congregations and is considered one of the best.

September 10 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)

**"Gathering of Waters"
— Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs**

Every river flows down to the sea. And we will merge the waters of the world as we begin another year together. The whole church family will gather bringing water they have brought back from around the world. We'll sing songs old and new. We'll pray for peace and be at peace together. Please note that this Sunday resumes our three-service schedule of 9:00, 11:00, and 4:30.

THIS MONTH'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP MEETINGS

All are invited to attend the following groups. For more information, contact the Church Office or the persons listed with each group.

U-Knitarians

...for those who enjoy knitting and crocheting
Fourth Wednesday of each month at Wellspring Wednesdays
Contact: Laura at the Church Office

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, August 13 and 27 and September 10 — 1:00 p.m.
Contact: Phil Morton at 952/934-3578

Unity Divorce/Transitions Group

Contact Laura at the Church Office.

Unity Singles Group

Contact Laura at the Church Office.

A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Joan Lovrien at 651/739-6958

Afterthoughts

Every Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. service
Contact: Paul Gade at 651/771-7528

Unity Young Adult Group

Second and fourth Sundays of each month following the 4:30 p.m. service. For more information, contact Joseph at the Church Office.

Mother-Daughter Book Club (grades 5-7)

Held monthly on the third Wednesday of every month as part of Wellspring Wednesday. For titles, contact the Church Office.

Unitots!

A group for families with kids through preschool age.
Every Friday at 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Bridget Borell, 651/644-5618.

Grandparent Unitots!

A group for grandparents and their grandkids.
Every Monday at 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Sue Conner at 651/646-6667

Unity Bridge Club

First Friday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at members' homes. Contact Mary Barrett at 651/225-9708.

Evergreen Quilt Group

Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Kathie Simon Frank at 612/379-4253

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Throughout the summer, services are held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Between Labor Day and Memorial Day weekends, Sunday services are usually held at 9:00, 11:00, and 4:30. Worship leaders are assisted on Sundays by Worship Associates and Sunday Welcome Teams.

August 5 "To Be a Pilgrim" — Lyn Burton

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time. — T. S. Eliot

In religion and spirituality, a pilgrimage is a long journey or search of great moral significance. It may also be a journey to a sacred place or shrine of importance to a person's beliefs and faith. Lyn Burton will share joys, hardships and insights from her seven-year journey of faith as a Unity Church sponsored candidate for UU parish ministry on the path to Preliminary Fellowship in the UU Minister's Association.

August 12 "Unitarians in a Culture of Violence" — Chico Hathaway

We in America are immersed in a culture of violence, and in general we don't even notice. Our news, our entertainment, and our societal norms lead us to accept horrific violent acts as normal, acceptable, business-as-usual. As Unitarians, as people seeking to lead a religious life, should we be concerned? What response can we offer?

Chico Hathaway lives in St. Paul with his wife Anne Brataas and his two sons Kip and Aaron. He works in the water resources division of a local civil/environmental engineering consulting firm. His education has centered on science, medicine, engineering, and more recently, business management and leadership. He and his family very much appreciate the spiritual community that is

Unity Church, and look to the church as a source of inspiration for encouraging urgently-needed social and political change.

August 19

"More Than Fresh Eggs: Chicken-Keeping as a Spiritual Practice" — Kerri Meyer

Who has not sometimes derived an inexpressible

satisfaction from his food in which appetite had no share?"

— H. D. Thoreau

Is it possible that starting a backyard flock of three chickens could be a meaningful response to the human crisis of inequity in food production and distribution? What does producing our own food at the *really* local level reveal to us about the relationship between feeding our communities and nourishing our souls? And what are you supposed to do when one of your hens begins to crow? Come reflect on the growing trend of keeping chickens and the 'inexpressible satisfaction' that comes from more than just fresh eggs.

Kerri Meyer is starting her fourth year as Unity Church's Director of Religious Education. This summer has given a break from thinking exclusively about the spiritual upbringing of kids and youth and allowed her to spend time building a chicken coop. Her worldview has recently been shaken and shaped (in good ways) by her darling Jen who just finished a PhD in Urban Agriculture. She's missing her former 40-acre homestead in Michigan less and less and is settling more and more into a slightly modified version of 'city living' on St. Paul's East Side. She's counting the days until the State Fair and is looking for a home for Marigold the Rooster.



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BARBARA HUBBARD, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
LOUISE WOLFGRAMM, DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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