

My Passion: Why I Come to Unity Church

by Jen Vanek, Unity Church Member

I started visiting Unity Church in 1999, just after our son Aaron was born. Like many Unitarian newcomers, I came with a list of expectations. I came looking for interesting sermons, music, a venue for ritual, and a place to learn language to help my children respond to God and Jesus talk at school. I was happy with what I found, but wasn't feeling a deep connection. Then I came across the Mission and Ends Statement.

The mission of Unity Church-Unitarian is to engage people in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service, and joy.

These words were published shortly after we joined. They grabbed my attention, as did the Ends Statement, which includes the following ideas: congregants work to fulfill the mission by embracing the religious experience, building community, and living out liberal religious values in the world. It further reads:

The congregants understand the costs of excellence and support the church generously, creating a solid financial foundation on which to build.

I'm an English teacher; I noticed the action words... work, embracing, building, living, supporting, creating.

The words described expectations that far exceeded what I thought I needed in a church. The mission, the music, the worship and sermons had inspired me. They were gifts to me from the church. However, reading the Mission and Ends Statement gave me a hint that the feeling of truly belonging might require my giving something back. I found myself wanting to be identified as part of the commitment to excellent and depth of purpose the church represents. I dove in and got my hands busy.

That's when my passion began to develop. Because of the commitment of the church to both social justice and spiritual growth of its members, I've had the opportunity to do deep, meaningful work. I helped with the transition in the Ministry with Children and Youth in the last three years and, during that same time, started the Center for Victims of Torture Ministry Team. While I was doing this work, church staff encouraged me to reflect on how to be a better person, leader, partner and team member.

The church trusted me, supporting my ideas with the resources of the institution and the time of its staff. Through their trust in me, I've learned the importance of trust in community and team

partnerships. I've learned that rather than plowing through a To Do list, members of a group need to take time to listen to each other. I've learned that it is impossible to have a deep connection with a completed project, but impossible *not* to form such connections with the partners you trust to help you complete it.

Most importantly, I've learned that this trust or faith in each other is required **before** any thing of substance can be imagined and acted upon. I have passion for this place because I know that I'm not the only one to have learned these lessons, that there are others who share my trust in the community and admiration of its expectations of its members.

I've learned to trust you as future religious education volunteers, community outreach partners, fair share pledgers, and Sunday offering contributors.

The community and partnerships fostered by this church make a difference. As evidence, here is a list of what the Center for Victims of Torture Ministry Team has accomplished since we began our work in 2003:

- ◆ Six education forums and CVT Open House Events
- ◆ Six congregational volunteer events to support the opening of the CVT Healing Center on Dayton Ave.
- ◆ A coat drive that collected over 100 fall and winter coats
- ◆ 100 massage therapy heat packs assembled by Unity's children and parents
- ◆ \$7,000 raised through two Sunday offerings and this year's Concerts with a Cause
- ◆ An education and advocacy campaign to help prevent U.S. military use of torture
- ◆ Weekly art therapy sessions for CVT clients in our R.E. space

Unity Church as become a trusted partner with CVT. I definitely could not have done all that alone. I love this church!!

Unity Church's CVT Ministry Team Supports the United Nation's International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Find out more on page 8!

JUST WORDS / EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Just Words, from Justin

You Say Hello, I Say Goodbye:

Practicing the Art of a Good 'Goodbye'

It almost feels like I arrived just yesterday, new to the Twin Cities and new to Unity Church. Yet, I've been here for over 10 months. It has been a joy to have served this congregation. Unity Church, you are an incredible faith community! It has been such a privilege and joy getting to know many of you and to have the opportunity to laugh, grieve, worship, and learn with you. Thank you.

As Teresa and I reach the end of our sabbatical ministry at Unity Church, I am reminded of the importance of practicing good "hellos" and good "goodbyes." Done well, hellos and goodbyes can be part of a deep spiritual practice. A good "hello" — really being present to what's just come into our lives — can reawaken us to the mystery and miracle all around us.

A good goodbye, although difficult and emotion filled, can help us stop and see the whole of what we've experienced, and what we're letting go of. It can lift to the surface what's been important and meaningful and what has touched and changed us.

Although I will be staying at Unity Church as your new Membership Coordinator, I am saying goodbye to you as your Hallman Intern and Sabbatical Minister. In my new role, I will not preach regularly, nor will I do any pastoral work. In my new role, I will certainly be doing "membership ministry," but that is different than my sabbatical ministry, and it's important to acknowledge and understand that.

Needless to say, I am thrilled to be staying here for two more years, as I care about our faith and I care about Unity Church. Furthermore, staying here allows my fiancée, Juliana, to finish her three-year program at the University of Minnesota without interruption, which is important to both of us.

So I end this note by getting ready to say goodbye to you as your sabbatical minister, knowing that in the fall, I'll say hello to you again as your new Membership Coordinator!

In faith, Justin

Grand Old Day parking reminder

Sunday, June 3, is Grand Old Day, a street fair that begins at 8:00 a.m. and will create traffic congestion and difficulty parking. The church lots will be barricaded and staffed by church youth to assure that lot parking is available before the 10:00 a.m. worship service. (You might be asked a trivia question to prove your Unity affiliation!)

Remember that immediately following worship on Sunday, June 3, Unity's Tower Club begins using both parking lots for fundraising on Grand Old Day.

FROM INTERWEAVE MINISTRY TEAM

Unity and Interweave at Twin Cities Pride

The Interweave Ministry Team invites the congregation to march with the Unitarian Universalist contingent in support of the GLBTQA community in the Twin Cities Pride Parade. Save the date! Sunday, June 24, 11:00 a.m. Watch for more details in This Week at Unity about a meeting time and place. For more information or with any questions, contact Linda Smidzik at lsmidzik@msn.com.

Unity Church Neighborhood Ice Cream Social

Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, June 6! We will celebrate the beginning of summertime by inviting our neighbors to enjoy ice cream with us on a lovely summer evening. There will be games for kids, and fun for all. Stop by the Portland Greenspace, just outside of the Sanctuary, at 7:00 p.m.

The Wheel of Life

In Memoriam

Edwina Dickenson

August 1, 1910 —
April 5, 2007

Benjamin Cassidy

January 29, 1976 —
May 8, 2007

In Celebration

Alexander Weston McCready

born April 18, 2007
son of Kate and Rob McCready

In Remembrance

Richard O. Heilman

former member
of Unity Church

Susan Sternfels

former member
of Unity Church

JUST WORDS / EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Just Words, from Teresa

*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

As I write this, the lilacs are in full bloom in St. Paul. Their delicate blossoms of white, pink, and lilac are everywhere, and their fragrance gently perfumes the air. The lilacs were another reminder that I've been here in St. Paul for just about year. Just one year ago my husband David and I came to this neighborhood to go apartment hunting. The lilacs were in full bloom, as they are now; the leaves the same timbre of green, the sunlight smelling of spring.

I've been here so long; I've barely arrived. Now, I always have tissues in my robe pocket because they often come in handy, I know how to operate the Hobart dishwasher, and I can access the remote voicemail system with relative ease on most days. I've learned how to jiggle my key just right to open the doors of the church, and I can easily make my way around the building in the dark, even in the basement.

From Sunday mornings to Wednesday evenings, from the pulpit to your living rooms, from meetings to late-night emails, I *did* ministry less and less because I *became* your minister more and more. You trusted me as your minister — first as an intern and then as your sabbatical minister. I began to believe it, and I learned that I rather like it.

This year has been a pilgrimage of sorts, and now that I'm near the end, I recognize the shrine to which I've been traveling. As UU Minister Rev. Jane Rzepka said of ministerial internships, "...if everything goes according to plan, you learn that you have fallen in love with the people, that's the main thing." And I have.

Our goodbye will be bittersweet. I will stay in the Twin Cities as a chaplain at United Hospital while David continues his work before we move for his ministerial internship. But, I will no longer be your minister. Yet in some way, you will always be my congregation.

I live a block and a half away from the church. Though I can't remember the day it started, at some point this year I recognized our church bell distinctly from the other church bells on the street. It called to me, not unlike the way a mother recognizes her child's voice. Thank you for helping me hear my call. It is with deep gratitude that I bid you a fond farewell and Godspeed!

Blessings, Teresa

FOR THOSE 65 AND OLDER -- AND 65 AND YOUNGER!

My Favorite Things

*Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens / Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings / These are a few of my favorite things...*

On Thursday, June 7, come and share some of your favorite things: bring a poem, a book, children's book, photo, trinket, song, stuffed animal, or souvenir. We all have items—new and old: perhaps sand from a special beach, a grandmother's locket, a letter from a long-lost relative. These "favorite things" hold the stories of our lives.

The gathering begins at 1:00 p.m. Contact Teresa at the Church Office at 651/228-1456 to RSVP. Childcare is available with advance request by Monday, June 4.

MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

Generosity Ministry Team Update

Rebecca Ann Parker, President of Starr King School of Theology writes:
We are born into relationships before we shape them by our conscious intention. We inherit covenant before we create covenant. We are given the gift of life...the gift of one another.

Intentional covenant making within our tradition of liberal religion drops us in the middle of that biting intersection where our deeply held sense of social and economic justice stands side by side with an economic system that maximizes self-interest. We feel the disconnect.

"Fundamentally covenant is not a verbal agreement but a practice. It is formed by coming together ..and committing ourselves as coworkers with the source of life."

This is it. A culture of gratitude illuminates the abundance of gifts bestowed: gifts of talent, spirit and all varieties of resources. A culture of generosity holds out its relentless challenge to share what we have been given, even if it sometimes demands individual or collective sacrifice. Covenant is a practice.

Offering Recipients for June and July:

June 3 / July 8: Twin Cities Community Voice Mail

Twin Cities Community Voice Mail helps low-income Minnesotans without phones by providing them with free voice mail service. This critical communication link connects them to the community to help them find jobs, homes, health care and other services necessary for self-sufficiency. To date, they have served more than 30,000 Minnesotans.

June 10 / July 15: Hallman Ministry Fund

These Sundays' offerings will help support our Hallman Ministry Fund, as we make sure Unity Church's Hallman Interns receive a "living stipend," as well as dental and medical benefits. The Hallman Internship is named after the Rev. Laurel Hallman.

June 17 / July 22: Northwest Youth and Family Services

Northwest Youth and Family Services is a non-profit agency that serves primarily, but not exclusively, suburban Ramsey County. Its services include an outpatient mental health clinic, day treatment for youth, youth diversion services, community social work, youth employment services and summer camps. Rachel Cain, Outpatient Mental Health Manager, is a member of Unity Church. www.nyfs.org.

June 24 / July 29: Open Door Outreach

Open Door Outreach is an educational and support service for people with anxiety and panic disorders. Open Door offers a three-part program of anxiety management strategies, lifestyle awareness and helpful self-talk. The program offers the anxiety sufferer hope and deeply needed support. Unity Church members Ron and Nancy Reed and their son Jason are involved as volunteers at Open Door, Inc. www.anxiety-support.net.

July 1: 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.

Early commUNITY Newsletter Deadlines

Normally, newsletter deadlines are the 14th of each month. However, the August and September commUNITY newsletters will have early deadlines. Here are a list of deadlines for the next few months:

| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>DEADLINE</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|
| August 2007 | July 7 |
| September 2007 | August 7 |
| October 2007 | September 14 |

**note that there is typically no newsletter published for the month of July.*



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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ART OPPORTUNITY

An Artistic Opportunity

by John Lentz, Facilities Manager

Some of you may be wondering why we took down the tree along side the sanctuary. Some more of you may be wondering why we didn't take the whole thing down. Allow me to clear some things up for you!

The tree next to the church was taken down because every fall the Sanctuary and Music Office became infested with Box Elder Bugs, making both quite unbearable.

While we were taking down the tree I took a step back and thought, "Oh, wow! What if we were to leave the last ten to twelve feet there and see if anyone wants to carve it up into something sweet looking!" While it would be extremely easy to cut down that last bit, it would be extraordinarily hard to put it back if anyone wanted to do something awesome.

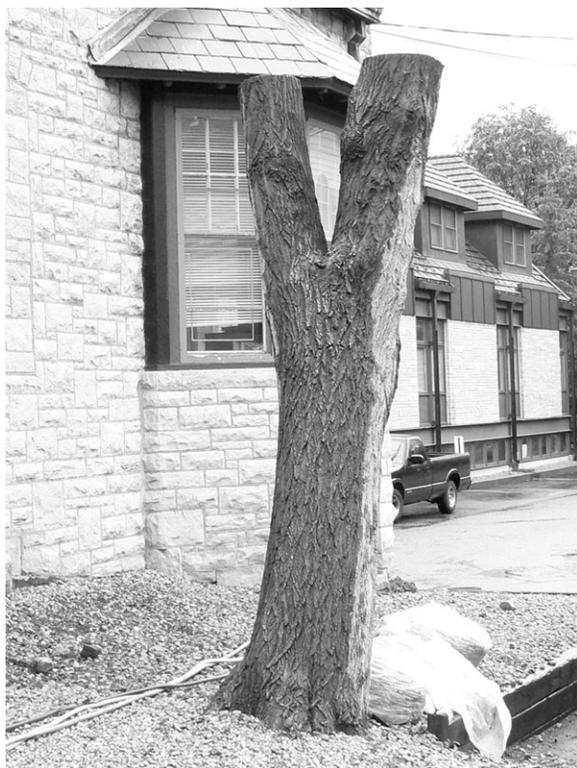
It is now spring and the perfect time for walking around, looking at big tree trunks, and dreaming. I invite you all to stop by and let your imagination run free!

The Facilities Team is looking for design suggestions for the carved trunk. We will listen to all ideas: no idea is too crazy to submit. Even if you can't draw, you can just describe what you're thinking. A totem pole of the faces of the ministers of the church carved into it. An enormous chalice. Someone standing with arms raised into the sky, both hands being "thumbs-up."

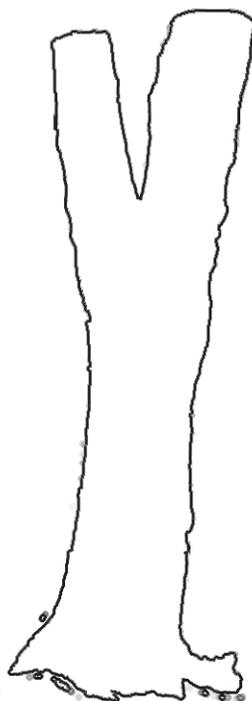
If after due deliberation, Unity Church decides that having a sculpture that declares who we are as a congregation with public art isn't what we want to do, then we can cut it down at that time. If we want to do something, we need your ideas as to what to do with it!

Please either draw your idea on the outline provided or send me your ideas! To get your sketches to me, you can either email me at john@unityunitarian.org, drop it off at the front desk, or drop slip it through the "Facilities Suggestions" mail slot on the Facilities Office door.

Use this space to give us your ideas -- in words or pictures. Send your ideas to the Facilities Team c/o John at the Church Office.



The tree outside the Music Office and Sanctuary is ready to be sculpted into an artistic masterpiece.



Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

Staff Changes and Transitions

What a full year it has been! Unity Church's staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to create a rich and fulfilling church year. As we move from spring to summer, it is appropriate to acknowledge changes and transitions among the staff at Unity.

We thank Laura Park for her outstanding work as Interim Membership Coordinator. When former Membership Coordinator Laura Schlatter resigned last fall, the Executive Team invited Laura Park to serve as the Interim Membership Coordinator through June 2007. Laura Park accepted this invitation and has done an outstanding job. Thank you, Laura!

For nine years now, our Coordinator of Communications, Mark Lynch, has brought consistency, professionalism, and sophistication to our church communications. From This Week at Unity, to our newsletter commUNITY, to the Orders of Worship to memorial service programs, we've counted on Mark to tell us what's going on (or to tell us who does know what's going on!). Mark's time at Unity Church will draw to a close in mid-August, as he begins the next chapter in his life as a full-time graduate student at the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota. Good luck, Mark!

Justin Schroeder and Teresa Schwartz conclude their Sabbatical Ministry at the end of June, and we deeply thank them for their outstanding ministry to Unity Church. Both Justin and Teresa (and their respective partners) will be staying in the Twin Cities area next year.

Teresa will be working full time as a chaplain at United Hospital. Justin has been offered the position of Membership Coordinator

Employment Corner

Coordinator of Communications

Unity Church—Unitarian is seeking a full-time Communications Specialist. This position is responsible for marketing and publicity, newsletter publication, online communications, and production of weekly service materials. We are seeking someone with a vision of future communications possibilities to serve the needs of a growing, technologically literate congregation. A bachelor's degree and excellent communications skills are required. Experience with desktop and web publishing software and MS Access is also necessary.

This position requires occasional evenings and some Sunday hours. A full position description is available on the church website. Send resumes to the attention of "Coordinator of Communications - Search and Screen." Deadline for resume submission is Friday, June 22. Start date is August 1. For questions about the position, contact the Church Office.

at Unity Church. After seeking and receiving approval from the Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Fellowship Committee to stay on at Unity Church in this capacity, Justin has accepted this two-year position. Both Teresa and Justin will be honored for their sabbatical ministry at the June 10 worship service.

Rob Eller-Isaacs will preach at the June 17 worship service where we will celebrate the dedication and hard work of Laura Park and Mark Lynch. Both Rob and Janne report that they are having a wonderful sabbatical. They will be back in the church offices in August.

It has been a rich, full year, and we thank all of our dedicated staff and volunteers who have helped Unity Church continue to fulfill its mission of helping people to live lives of "integrity, service, and joy."

Wanted: UUSC Representative from Unity Church

With more than 47,000 members and supporters, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. The programs are based on Unitarian Universalist principles that affirm the worth, dignity and human rights of every person.

Through a potent combination of advocacy, education and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC supports programs and policies that promote workers' rights, advance the human right to water, defend civil liberties, and preserve the rights of those affected by humanitarian crises.

For more information about UUSC, visit their website at www.uusc.org. If you are interested in becoming a UUSC member or serving as the Unity Church representative to the UUSC, please contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

Feeding Unity Church: Be a Wellspring Lead Cook

Is cooking for others your spiritual calling? Do you like to build community through shared meals? You'd be the perfect person to lead a Wellspring Wednesday cooking team. We're still looking for two new Wellspring Wednesday lead cooks. No need to have a chef background. Mentorship, training, and other support available. Contact Laura at the Church Office to talk about the possibilities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our New Orleans Pilgrimage

by Sharon Hogenson and Anne Borer

Heartwarming, anger-inducing, shocking, and wonderful are all words that come to mind when people ask us, "How was your trip to New Orleans?"

It is shocking and anger-inducing to realize that a year and a half after the greatest natural disaster in United States history so little has been done by the federal government to rebuild the area. On the trip we overheard someone say that the people of New Orleans would be better off if Louisiana had seceded from the union and applied for a loan or foreign aid. It makes one ask, "Why is it easier to get money to go to war than to rebuild homes, hospitals and schools?" Government should fund construction not destruction.

"Wonderful" describes the relationships that we pilgrims developed with each other. We discovered it was possible to share one shower and sleep on a cot with about a dozen other people in a small, hot room and come away closer than before the trip.

It was heartwarming to meet and talk with the people from New Orleans. The gratitude they expressed was very humbling. On the first Saturday a group of us went to paint the "Renew Our Music Fund" Center, which is housed in the former jazz radio station that moved out after the flood. Jordon, the center's director, encouraged us to go to Preservation Hall that night. The musicians there publicly thanked us for the work we were doing. It made us realize why New Orleans is loved. It's the people and the music — but the food helps too.

"Fun loving" is a term one could use to describe the people of New Orleans. Despite depression, loss, poverty, and despair, they have an ability to have a good time. At "Rock and Bowl," we heard great music and had fun joining the diverse group of people who were dancing and bowling. It was the spirit of New Orleans in action!

We are proud to say that our pilgrimage to New Orleans was a success because many of us answered a compelling internal call to go. We conquered fears and worries that we would be

unable to help, or get hurt, or fall apart with the pressure of group living under less than ideal circumstances. None of this was true. We found that we could gut a building or put up sheetrock — even though some of us don't want to make a habit of it.

In doing this work, we were supportive and helpful to each other and had fun together. The ability to

come together as a team in New Orleans was fostered by your warm blessing given on a Wellspring Wednesday prior to our trip. Your encouragement, prayers, and generous financial contributions helped our pilgrimage to be, what we think, will be the first of many because the need is great and the rewards are vast.

For pictures of the New Orleans pilgrimage, see last month's commUNITY Newsletter.

FROM THE GREEN SANCTUARY TEAM

Eco-Team in the Garden

Gardening is on the minds of many of us, and the Ecotarians can give you suggestions on how to take care of your yard in a more eco-friendly way. Stop at our table this month after services during June, where they will have information about rain gardens, rain barrels, natural landscaping services, and composting.

The Green Sanctuary team can do a lot more if they have more team members, so think about joining our group — you know the adage: many hands make light work. The team would like to find some Eco-Champs, people who will take on the job of promoting one part of helping save the world — such as composting or switching lightbulbs from incandescent to compact fluorescent. Just stop at the table in the Parish Hall and sign up with your ideas.

A Green Tip

As part of Unity Church's continuing effort to become an ecologically responsible congregation, the use of disposable cups will be discontinued in the kitchen. If you would like to enjoy a cup of coffee or a glass of water, feel free to use a ceramic coffee cup or a glassware water glass which we will clean if you leave it on the dishwasher line.

For outdoor events or other events that would put the church's servingware resources at risk, we have purchased compostable pressed-soy cups that are very similar to paper cups. When these are used, do not throw them away. Rather, they will be collected and composted. By making this one small change, Unity Church will reduce the volume of solid trash that we produce by close to three cubic yards of waste every month! (Three cubic yards is about half the size of a standard mini-van!)

Want to help?

Have an idea for our monthly environmental tip where we share ways to help heal the earth? Contact Ginger Pinson at gingerpinson@msn.com or 651/227-1863. To find out more about the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team in general, contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH / RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FROM THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE MINISTRY TEAM

United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

June 26 is the anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Since 1998 this day has been recognized as UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

The Center for Victims of Torture will hold events in the U.S. and Africa to show solidarity with torture survivors and bring people from all walks of life together to speak to our highest aspirations: a torture free world.

You are invited to join staff, survivors, volunteers and supporters on Tuesday, June 26, at 5:00 p.m. for a celebration of hope and healing on the front lawn of the Minneapolis Healing Center at 717 East River Road in Minneapolis.

Universal Dance Destiny will kick off the event with a performance of African dance. Steven Miles, M.D., will be the keynote speaker during a brief program to rededicate ourselves to healing survivors and working to end torture. His work has changed end of life care, nursing home care, and medical care in prisons and refugee camps. Miles' latest book, *Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity, and the War on Terror*, examines military medicine in the war on terror prisons. The documents he used to write his book are available online at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library. Following the program we will gather to plant a tree with messages of hope and healing.

Torture is one of the most profound human rights abuses, taking a terrible toll on millions of individuals and their families. Rape, blows to the soles of the feet, suffocation in water, burns, electric shocks, sleep deprivation, shaking and beating are commonly used by torturers to break down an individual's personality. As terrible as the physical wounds are, the psychological and emotional scars are usually the most devastating and the most difficult to repair. Many torture survivors suffer recurring nightmares and flashbacks. They withdraw from family, school and work and feel a loss of trust.

Since its creation, the United Nations has worked to eradicate torture. In 1984, the General Assembly adopted the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which entered into force on June 26, 1987. The Convention obliges countries to make torture a crime and to prosecute and punish those guilty of it. It notes explicitly that neither higher orders nor exceptional circumstances can justify torture.

More than 100 countries have ratified the Convention Against Torture, yet torture is still reported even in these countries. And so, more than a decade after the Convention Against Torture came into force, the international community has realized the need to place a further spotlight on this atrocious phenomenon.

For more information, see www.un.org/events/torture.



Religious Education News

Celebration of New Lives

Families from Unity Church celebrating the arrival of a new baby into their lives are invited to participate in the June 10 Celebration of New Lives at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Interested families should contact Christy at the Church Office to register for this special event marking Unity's commitment to raise each new child as a beloved part of our spiritual community. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, June 6. The next Celebration of New Lives Ceremony will take place in October.

Tower Club tubing trip

Tower Club youth and their families are invited to a summer get-together on Friday, June 29, at Welch Mills Canoe and Tubing in Welch, Minnesota, for an afternoon of tubing and picnicking along the Cannon River. Incoming tenth graders and their families are welcome to attend this event as well!

Cost is \$9 per tube. Unity will supply the picnic — tubers should bring their own beverages, including plenty of water. Meet in Welch at 1:00 pm and take the 3 1/2-hour trip, weather and water levels permitting. Contact Joseph or Kerri at the Church Office for more information.

Summer Sundays - childcare

During the 10:00 a.m. summer services, childcare is available for infants and toddlers in the nursery and for school-aged children through age 12 in the Yellow Hallway.

Be sure to sign in your children with the youth staff and adult volunteers present each Sunday morning. Crafts, stories and outside play will offer kids a chance to meet one another and enjoy each other's company. Children should be collected immediately after the end of the worship service.

Youth-led worship on July 15

There is still an opportunity for high school youth to get involved in the planning and leadership of the Youth-Led Summer Service on July 15. Contact Joseph at the Church Office.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH / UNITY SINGLES



Thomas Nyirongo, Kevin Bevis, Barbi Byers, and Arlene West celebrate at Lawrence University after a soccer game during Thomas's sophomore year.

FROM THE MALAWI PROJECT

Malawi Visits Minnesota

Dr. Trywell and Marilyn Nyirongo will make a pilgrimage from Nchenachena, Malawi, for a visit to the United States, May 30 to June 14, hosted by Unity Church. It is a journey to a sacred place — where the family of Emily Day and members of Unity Church welcomed Trywell as a teenager and supported his education through medical school; sent bicycles, food, and medical supplies to clinics supervised by Trywell and Marilyn, and funded wells with safe drinking water.

It is a journey of moral significance. They will attend their son Thomas's graduation from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, on June 10 — and see him for the first time in five years. They will get to know Arlene West and Kevin Bevis, Thomas's St. Paul "parents" and host family for five years.

All are invited to meet and greet them at a reception following the 10:00 a.m. service on June 3 and at the Unity Church Neighborhood Ice Cream Social on June 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Unity and two other churches are collaborating to meet needs in Malawi. On June 14, Dr. Trywell and Marilyn Nyirongo will return to Malawi with new friends at Unity, new ideas for delivering community services, gratitude, baby clothes for clinics, school supplies, solar flashlights, a solar oven, and a pedal-or-hand-powered machine to grind peanuts, pearl millet, and corn. Thank you for your support and friendship in this respectful, evolving relationship. To read more about the Unity Church/Malawi connection, see the March/April 2004 issue of UUWorld, on the web at uuworld.org/2004/02/feature3.html.

FROM THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM

Re-visioning for the Restorative Justice Ministry Team

Are you interested in issues around the criminal justice system? Worried about the costs of incarceration? Concerned about the rate at which released offenders return to prison? Uneasy about the high rate at which African-American men are incarcerated? Uncomfortable with the death penalty?

On Wednesday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m., the Restorative Justice Ministry Team will hold a potluck dinner and meeting to revision the work of the team in these important areas. Whatever your specific concerns or beliefs about these issues, join current and former members of the team to generate new ideas and a new mission for this active team.

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.



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM

June 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, June 15.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, June 20. Invoices are enclosed with your order. You 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.



Evergreen Foodshelf Corner

The next Food Drive Sunday will be May 20 when the foodshelf items will be diapers and non-perishable baby food and formula. Remember that any non-perishable item can be donated at any time. Monthly items are simply suggestions for what can be brought each month. Please deposit items in the Portland or Holly Avenue foodshelf bins.

MUSIC / COUPLES ENRICHMENT

Music Notes

by Ruth Palmer

Visualize our planet and all its magnificent peoples in past and present times... Deeply engage in and celebrate the diversity of humankind. Let yourself really feel and experience the earthy indigenous primal qualities. Find those qualities in yourself so that you sing the chants with integrity. Sing from your soul... this is holistic music, music which engages and celebrates the totality of our being.

— Sarah Hopkins, from performance notes of *Past Life Melodies*

Think about becoming part of our music program at Unity Church. As you enjoy your summer and plan your activities for the next church year, consider being part of the generous community of Unity Church musicians who participate in 'music which engages and celebrates the totality of our being.'

MUSIC PROGRAM OFFERINGS FOR 2007-2008

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

Children's & Youth offerings:

We have worked to think creatively and both evaluate and improve our music program offerings for children and youth in these last several years. Our hope is that they will be more coordinated with the R.E. program and designed to meet the needs of our children and youth with greatest effectiveness. Our program offerings are:

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. *A parents' meeting takes place in November and auditions take place in early January. Concentrated rehearsals span a six-week period culminating in a performance weekend in late February or early March. All children who audition are given opportunity to share in the performances.*

Youth Music Ensemble (Grades 6–8) Ruth MacKenzie, director.
Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. service in the Ames Chapel — to be offered as a module of choice in the R.E. program offerings. This will be divided into various modules of musical experience including singing, instrumental, various cultural music, collective composition resulting in a performable song and many other special interest opportunities as well.

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: 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 next fall. Volunteers to help greet, usher and assist with the reception are always needed and appreciated.

Unity Church Volunteer Musicians: As always we will be looking forward to hearing from our own Unity musicians in various venues. Of particular interest is the Wellspring Wednesday Worship Service. We encourage solos, small ensembles and family musical teams to participate.

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

Choir 'Walk-In' Sundays: June 4 & 11

Put this on your calendar now and plan to come and sing with some of the Unity Choir members on these Sundays. Rehearsal is at 9:00 in the Foote Room with an 'easy-to-put-together' anthem. Sing at the 10:00 service that morning! Great fun and a wonderful way to satisfy that 'urge to sing'!

Summer Musicians Wanted!

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with your Unity family and friends. The variety of worship leaders and themes of the summer Sundays provide a wonderful opportunity for a broad range of musical styles and instrumentation. There is room for every kind of expression! Summer lay-led services begin on June 24 this year and continue through September 2. If you are interested in participating in the music, contact Kathleen Bartholomay at 651/698-2431.

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.

ART / SUMMER SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE/JULY ART

Nick Foster-Walters

I am a landscape painter born and raised in rural Wisconsin. Throughout my life I've been fascinated with both the built and natural environment.

The images that I select to paint are from my visual experiences, something that I have seen and want to capture. I strive to immerse the viewer in an environment that is beautiful and meditative. My current work is oil paintings on large rectangular panels. This shape and size allows me to create many areas of focus in one image, similar to the natural world. I am currently interested in objects that earth and the sky, trees and tall buildings.

JULY AND AUGUST SERVICE INFORMATION

Summer lay-led services are held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. through Labor Day weekend. The schedule of worship leaders below is subject to change. Updates will be posted in This Week at Unity and on the church website.

July 1 (10:00 a.m.)

"The Eldercare Journey" — Rev. Ann Romanczuk

Many of us in this congregation are caring for, or anticipating caring for, our aging parents. Author Mary Pipher writes of this process: "if we embark freely and willingly on this voyage of discovery, we may find joy, empathy, understanding, and intimacy. We expand our definitions of what it means to be human. We grow our own souls in the garden of time." Rev. Ann Romanczuk will explore this difficult and potentially rewarding passage.

Rev. Ann Romanczuk is a UU minister and a Chaplain at Hennepin County Medical Center. She is a long-time member of this congregation, which ordained her in 2004. She is, at present, caring from a distance for her mother, who is 85 and lives in New York City.

July 8 (10:00 a.m.)

"Oh Say Can You See, By the Dawn's Early Light?" — Tom Esch

It is time to really put our imaginations to use. Fewer people can doubt that we are near or at a point of crisis on many levels as a planet and as a species. Is it time for all of us to begin to see new things in new ways? Where do we as a UU movement find our vision and inspiration in times of desperation?

July 15 (10:00 a.m.) Elizabeth Alexander & Church Youth

July 22 (10:00 a.m.) Craig Allen

July 29 (10:00 a.m.) Jessie Light

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, June 4 & 18, July 2, 16 & 30 — 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

Sunday services are held at 9:00, 11:00, and 4:30, unless otherwise noted. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, summer services are held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Worship leaders are assisted on Sundays by Worship Associates, Holly Avenue Greeters, and Sunday Welcome Teams.

In June, we explore the theme of "Ripeness." There is a great joy that comes from biting into a ripe peach, its sweetness running over our lips and down our chin. Although it is just a peach, it is also a symbol of fullness, of beautiful "rightness," of a transcendent maturation. These same moments of perfect ripeness happen in our own lives, as we cross thresholds, and encounter times when all the pieces have come together, and our life is full of the sweet nectar of joy.

June 3 (10:00 a.m.)

"The Journey We're Ready For" — Teresa Schwartz

We make our paths by walking them, step by step. If our lives are a journey, are we ever truly ready? How would we know? What is the role of faith as we step into the unknown, especially as Unitarian Universalists? As we reach the close of our church year, we'll reflect on the paths we've made together, and what lies ahead as we move into the ripe season of summer and the ripe season of ourselves. Sabbatical Co-Minister Teresa Schwartz and Worship Associate Dick Buggs will lead the service.

June 10 (10:00 a.m.)

"The Joy of Ripeness" — Justin Schroeder

Life is full of beginnings and endings. Yet, there is that magical moment, that space someplace between the beginning and the ending, where a fullness and perfect readiness is reached. It is as if we have been preparing our whole lives for this moment, this moment that can come again and again in our lifetime. It is a moment of joy, a moment of perfect ripeness – filled with sweet nectar, ready to burst forth. This service will be led by Worship Associate Mare Baremore and Sabbatical Minister Justin Schroeder.

June 17 (10:00 a.m.)

"Walking Toward the Sea" — Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs

During the month of May, our ministers Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs made their way along the Camino de Santiago, an ancient pilgrimage trail that culminates at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostella. They return to Unity Church to tell us why they chose to go beyond Santiago and to end their pilgrimage at the sea.

June 24 (10:00 a.m.)

"Walt Whitman Revisited" — Duncan Baird

Duncan Baird has been affiliated with Unity Church since 1920, and has unofficially been designated as the official Church curmudgeon. He spent most of his career at Macalester College as a professor with a specialty in the field of jurisprudence, which (as he tells it) is pretty dull. Now widowed, alas, he lives with his girl friend, Abby, the sweetest standard poodle on the planet. He loves to sail and hates anything powered with a gasoline engine.

For more summer service information, see page 11.



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MAUREEN PHILLIPS, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANNE AND ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTERS
TERESA SCHWARTZ AND JUSTIN SCHROEDER, SABBATICAL MINISTERS
BARBARA HUBBARD, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
LOUISE WOLFGRAMM, DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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