

commUNITY

Vol. 31, No. 6

UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

March 2008

Lift Every Voice: The Means to the Ends

From Zack Steven
Chair, Unity Church Board of Trustees

One of the most rewarding elements of being a Trustee is the opportunity to engage in conversation around the future of Unity Church-Unitarian. These conversations happen in many ways, and at many times, but only every five years or so do we undertake a formal process to update our Ends Statements. The Ends Statements are the governing policies which reflect our collective vision of who we want to be in the world. They are the guidelines by which the Executive Team and Board prioritize resources, and they are a principal benchmark against which organizational performance is measured.

This spring, under the guidance of church members Laura Park and Teresa Thomas-Carroll, the Board will sponsor a number of workshop sessions in the hopes of connecting with as many members of the congregation as possible. Trustees Barbara Ford, Tim Sheehan, and Ray West have also been instrumental in crafting these workshops which will be meaningful for participants, and invaluable to the Board and congregation as a whole. Details are in the box at right, and I encourage you to participate; share your stories and your dreams, and hear the stories and dreams of others.

Easter Offering
envelopes are
enclosed.
Please see
page 3 for
details.



Workshops: Making a Difference

"It was most valuable to see and realize the common threads of experience and interests in being a member of this church"

"I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the vision for the church's future. Also the opportunity to connect with other church members—just what I'm hoping to see more of."

"I really enjoyed the small group dynamics. Wonderful opportunity to learn from other members what they have experienced, what they value. I have met four new friends."

When was the last time you...

- ... really felt heard?
- ... felt deeply connected to a group of people?
- ... felt your input had an impact on the future?

Come to a workshop, "Unity Church Unitarian—Making a Difference" sponsored by the Board of Trustees, and experience all three.

Why is the Board sponsoring these workshops? We need your input to update our "ends," the statements that tell us where the church is going in the next five years.

Why is the theme Making a Difference? We want to hear the best ways the church has already made a difference, whether personally to you and your family, locally to the community or the state, or globally to the nation or the world, so that we can figure out how to build on those strengths for the future.

How will the workshops deepen connections? In the workshop you will talk with partners and small groups about a peak moment when you experienced the church making a difference, a time when you felt affirmed in your decision to be a part of this community. Together, you will find the themes that connect your stories and the possibilities they open for the future. As we did five years ago, we plan to paper the walls of the church with your flipcharts summarizing themes and wishes and then take them on retreat to imagine a future where our best possibilities are fully alive. We will translate those possibilities into ends statements.

This sounds like work—do I really want to participate? Listen to the comments from previous participants:

"Initially I was skeptical, by the end of the evening, I was very happy I participated."

"I was a bit worried that this would be too much thinking and work but it turned out to be an enjoyable experience. Thanks for taking the time to listen to our thoughts and wishes."

"Coming into the evening I was admittedly not excited about having to interview and share etc. but found it valuable by the end of the evening."

Okay, I'm in. How do I participate? Contact Barbara Ford, Board Trustee, at brford@tcinternet.net or 612-333-1197 to sign up for a session. Get your friends and small group members to participate with you as a way to deepen your connections and help us lift every voice.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

Shared Ministry: The Pastoral Care Ministry Here at Unity Church

Our shared ministry takes many forms here at Unity Church. The number of people involved in our many Community Outreach Ministry Teams is one example. These teams take our religion out into the world, responding to its hurts. They do so by forming partnerships, advocating for the needs of others, serving folks in need and educating around particular issues.

In addition to the Community Outreach Ministry Teams, there are other ministry teams here at Unity Church. Perhaps a less visible one is the Pastoral Care Ministry Team. This ministry team is comprised of about thirty dedicated individuals who seek to respond to the pastoral needs of the congregation. They have been trained to provide a listening presence to those who are living through a difficult and challenging time in their lives. They respond to people in crisis and in times of transition. Through their able hands and hearts, they visibly expand the caring ministry of this congregation in a wide variety of ways. They visit people in hospitals, in homes, in coffee shops and on walks around the lake. They check in by phone or arrange for face to face visits. They are present at memorial services. The staff and ministers of the church are indebted to them for their commitment and service.

Their ministry of presence provides the kind of nurturing space that many of us don't find very often. They seek to support and encourage while listening deeply to others. That kind of deep listening is a gift to the listener and the speaker as well. To quote theologian Nel Morton, "they seek to listen us into speech." In the sacred space of their listening, the answers that live within us have a chance to emerge. The sounding board that they create can help people discern what is true in their life.

I hope that if you are in need or know of someone in the congregation that is in need, you will let the Pastoral Care Team know. There is also a pastoral care line at the church which is monitored every day. In addition to monitoring the calls that come into the church and passing on that information to the appropriate people, they also staff the pastoral care table during coffee hour. At the Pastoral Care Table you will find cards created for a variety of situations and a list of people who have been lifted up during the Embracing Meditation so that you can send them a card and in doing so expand the caring ministry in even greater ways.

I hope that you will seek out a member of the Pastoral Care Team when you are in need. They are here and are eager to serve you.

Janne

Donations to Unity Church can now be made online!

This includes operating pledges, UUA/PSD pledges, religious education fees, and other gifts. Go to www.unityunitarian.org and click on "Make an on-line payment." You will need a credit card to complete your transaction at our secure server. If you have any questions please contact Barbara Hubbard at the Church Office.

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Ellen Ziebell Richards

born December 24, 2007
daughter of

Lynn Ziebell and Steven Richards

Carl Wimmer Magnuson

born January 29, 2008
daughter of
Dotty and Ben Magnuson

Indira River Cappelle

born February 3, 2008
daughter of
Holly and Tim Metzler Cappelle

In Memoriam

David Norman Kienitz

August 10, 1940 -
January 27, 2008

In Remembrance

Arlys Wederstrom and Clifford Wederstrom

mother and father of
Lorelee Wederstrom

Charles Wyant

father of Jackie Sall

Daylight Saving Time Begins!



Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 a.m.
Set your clocks ahead one hour!

MARCH SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday services are held at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. Worship leaders are assisted on Sundays by Worship Associates and Sunday Welcome Teams. Sermon podcasts and archives are available on line at www.unityunitarian.org

Worship Series

February 17 through March 23: *The Lenten Series: Stations of the Breath*

The services leading up to Easter Sunday are bound together by an image taken from Dylan Thomas' "A Refusal to Mourn the Death by Fire of a Child in London."

The majesty and burning of the child's death.
I shall not murder
The mankind of her going with a grave truth
Nor blaspheme down the stations of the breath
With any further
Elegy of innocence and youth.
Deep with the first dead lies London's daughter,
Robed in the long friends,
The grains beyond age, the dark veins of her mother,
Secret by the unmourning water
Of the riding Thames.
After the first death, there is no other.

Thomas is alluding to the "stations of the cross," the places Jesus is said to have stopped as he made his way to Golgotha. As we enter into a season of renunciation we visit times and places we've stopped along the way to catch our breath and mourn and even pray, aware as we are of this one precious life we have to live.

Beginning March 30: *Covenant and Creed*

Covenant and Creed is a five-service series on the history and present-day realities of liberal religion. Revelation is not sealed. We therefore have no creed, no fixed set of beliefs. Our detractors accuse us of practicing "religion lite." But being in covenant — being promise-making, promise-keeping people is a demanding path. Are we up to it?

Please see page 6 for all offering recipients.

Easter Offering: Honor Our Intern Ministers

...by making a contribution to the Hallman Endowment. The permanent endowment, which provides funding ministerial interns at Unity Church presently stands at \$185,000. Once the Fund reaches \$500,000 it will generate enough to support the internship. At present the internship, including stipend, health and dental benefits and professional development costs the church approximately \$22,000 a year.

Hallman Interns since 2002 include: Jen Crow, Melissa Zeimer, Katie Lawson, Teresa Schwartz, Justin Schroeder, and Matt Alspaugh Dottie Mathews, UTS Intern and Jacqueline Duhart, Community Ministry Intern (not Hallman Interns but nonetheless worthy of honor)

Honor one or all of our interns by making a contribution to the Hallman Endowment by check in the enclosed envelope, on-line at www.unityunitarian.org or at church on Easter Sunday, March 23.

March 2: *An Active Witness* — Jacqueline Duhart

How do we keep our heart attuned to the harsh realities of what happens in the public squares of our sacred world? How do we become more and more conscious and spiritually engaged? Please, come and join Jacqueline Duhart and Worship Associate Jean Olson as they explore the road toward becoming an Active Witness; a tool that may reawaken/reconnect us to the fullness and wholeness of life.

March 9: *Hard Times* — Rob Eller Isaacs

There are times in life when only faith will suffice. Rob and Worship Associate Elizabeth Alexander have collected stories of such times in the lives of church members and will offer them in collage as part of the service. Even though we know that spring is on the way there are times when even the resilience of the seasons seems in doubt.

March 16: *The Stepping Stones for What We Might Yet Become* — Janne Eller-Isaacs

Theologian James Luther Adams identified five smooth stones of liberal religion. These stones can be thought of as the stepping stones that we walk upon as we move forward into the future. Janne and Worship Associate Lia Rivamonte will explore the smooth stones of our liberal religion and will speak to what we might become in the future.

March 23: *Practice Resurrection* — Rob Eller-Isaacs, Janne Eller-Isaacs, Mat Alspaugh, Jacqueline Duhart

The entire church family will gather to "practice resurrection." Easter celebrates far more than simply the coming of spring. Easter is the joyful recognition of the ministry of Jesus and the many ways his work lives on in all our lives. Rob, Janne, Jacqueline and Matt will all participate in the service.

March 30: *Promises to Keep* — Rob Eller-Isaacs

Rob and Worship Associate Sharon Hogenson will offer an introduction to our way of being religious. Who were our spiritual ancestors? What do we promise each other? Covenant for us is more a verb than a noun, a way of being religious together rather than a set of fixed beliefs.



TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT 2008

Board Recruitment

Board recruitment is an open and accessible process. The Board actively and strategically recruits and nominates its members based on commitment to the church, demonstrated leadership, ability to fully perform the functions of the position, and diversity and points of view needed to reflect the stakeholders and moral owners of Unity Church.

Unity Church is a Welcoming Congregation that shares and embraces the concerns of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons and allies at every level of congregational life. We are also committed to becoming an actively anti-racist institution.

We are looking for three trustees to fulfill three-year terms on the Board. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees, please contact Kit Brady at 612-825-9663 or kbrady@lycos.com, or leave a note expressing your interest in the Board mail box in the Copy Room at the church by Monday, March 25. All candidates will be contacted by the Nominating Team soon thereafter. A slate of three candidates will be presented at the annual meeting to be elected by the congregation.

Trustee Position Description

Purpose of Position: Envision and ensure accomplishment of congregational Mission and Ends.

Connection to the Mission and Ends: The Board has a clear mission for Unity Church and Board members are committed to that mission. *The mission of Unity Church is to engage people in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service and joy.* In pursuit of this mission, we will embody the following values in all our work:

Authenticity
Generosity of Spirit
Mutual respect
Freedom of Thought
Open, broad embrace

Qualifications:

Trustee candidates must be voting members of Unity Church-Unitarian, with an awareness and understanding of the needs and wants of Unity's stakeholders and moral owners, and a commitment to the mission and vision of Unity. Trustees should have a willingness to work within the framework of policy governance, and attend and actively participate in all meetings of the Board. Trustees should have demonstrated leadership abilities, be willing to give generously within their means to Unity Church, and visibly support the church's fund-raising efforts. Unity Church values a diversity of knowledge, skills, and abilities in its trustees. NO BOARD EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY, but a willingness to learn is essential.

Principal Responsibilities:

The Board follows the Carver model of policy governance in its governance activities. The majority of Board time is spent talking about and planning for the future. Trustees are responsible to Unity Church stakeholders and fellow trustees. Trustee responsibilities include:

1. Providing the link between Unity Church and its stakeholders
2. Writing governing policies which, at the broadest levels, address:
 - a. *Ends:* What impact the organization intends to have
 - b. *Executive Team Limitations:* Behaviors, actions, and conditions that are not acceptable, because they are imprudent or unethical
 - c. *Governance Process:* Conceiving, carrying out and monitoring the Board's work
 - d. *Board-Executive Team Relationship:* Determining how power is delegated and monitored
3. Evaluating and monitoring the Executive Team as required by policy.

Time Commitment:

Trustees serve three-year terms, beginning at election at the annual meeting, unless filling out the term of another trustee. The Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:00 -10:00 p.m. for the full calendar year. Trustees are expected to participate on at least one Board sub-team, which has less predictable meetings that may take place once a month in addition to the Board meetings. Trustees are expected to participate in information-gathering meetings for the purpose of stakeholder input and monitoring, and time requirements for these activities vary. The Board of Trustees provides a full-day orientation for trustee development, and additional all-day or half-day workshops or special meetings are scheduled as needed. Trustees attend and participate in the annual congregational meeting, as well as the annual fund drive and other services that fall within the role of a trustee. Each meeting and activity requires approximately one to three hours of preparation.



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 per year.

Unity Church-Unitarian

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FROM OUR INTERNS



Relearning Spiritual Practice

from Matt Alspaugh, Hallman Ministerial Intern

What makes a spiritual practice "spiritual"? Over time, I've broadened my personal definition of spiritual practices from traditional practices, such as prayer and meditation, to other forms such as gratitude awareness or raising children or keeping chickens or Aikido. I am learning that it is less the activity than the attitude that makes a practice spiritual. I write in the present tense, as this is a lesson that must be continually relearned.

One of my hobbies is working in stained glass. Glasswork is a source of satisfaction and joy for me. The craft requires careful thought and focused, one-pointed attention. I love cutting glass, rolling the cutting wheel over the surface with just the right pressure, trying to follow the curve of the cut in a smooth, unbroken motion, so that the glass will break with a satisfying snap. I enjoy the puzzle work of selecting and arranging the colored shapes, and then using the hot solder to bind the pieces into a unified whole. Glass against sunlight has a special beauty for me.

But my hobby taught me a good lesson about spiritual practice when I proposed the creation of a glass panel for the worship space at my seminary in Berkeley. We held a design contest and ended up with two wonderful designs. I agreed to lead the production of both of these panels. Suddenly, what had been an activity of love became a project, with deadlines, budgets, volunteer help, and design constraints. Soon, all the joy and satisfaction had left my workshop, and I approached the project with increasing frustration and anxiety. I was committed; the project had to be completed! But I was relieved when the panels were finished and carefully transported to the school.

Thich Naht Hanh writes of washing dishes in *Peace is Every Step*: "To my mind, the idea that washing dishes is unpleasant can occur only when you aren't doing them." He reminds us that when you do the dishes while thinking about the dessert that will follow, you are not really doing the dishes, and the job becomes unpleasant. My stained glass work had become just that – unpleasant work. My mind had become focused on the outcomes and not what was going on in the moment. The activity was no longer sacred.

Thich Naht Hanh reminds us that if we are able to do each activity in the present moment, "no boundary exists between the sacred and the profane." He concludes, "I must confess it takes me a bit longer to do the dishes, but I live fully in every moment, and I am happy."

Which of your daily activities could become personal spiritual practices, if you approach them mindfully? You might be surprised at how many there are. Try focusing on doing just one of them, fully present, with all your attention, in this moment. You might learn a new spiritual practice, or recognize it as one that you already knew.



Women's History Month: Women, Glorious Women

from Jacqueline Duhart, Community Ministerial Intern

Am I the only one who finds it suspiciously coincidental that in February we celebrate Black History and in March we celebrate Women's History? For two consecutive months, a sum total of 60 days, we attempt to focus our attention on two vibrant and critical aspect of our Nation's history, that of African Americans and Women. Historically, both of these groups' identities have been erased, demeaned, and minimized. Black History Month and Women's History Month are social political acts. Two months of celebration is offered as an olive branch for decades of injustices that silences and robs all of us of our God-given humanity and divinity.

In spite of political motivations, I am grateful for Women's History Month. It provides us with a reason to pause and bring our Holy attention to some of the glorious contributions of Unitarian and Universalist women, who have shaped our rich heretical faith tradition. The 2008 theme for National Women's History Month is Women's Art, Women's Vision. I seize this opportunity to give thanks to three women of vision; two women of color, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper and Dr. Yvonne Seon, and Ella Lyman Cabot, a white skinned woman.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911) was Unitarian, a pioneer in social reform, a writer, a teacher and a public speaker. She worked tirelessly for women's suffrage and for racial justice. Around 1852, she made the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia her home church. In 1859, she published *The Two Offers*, the first short story published by an African American woman in this country. In a speech at the World Congress of Representative Women in 1893, Mrs. Harper stated, "O women of America! Into your hands God has pressed one of the sublimest opportunities that ever came into the hands of the women of any race or people. It is yours to create a healthy public sentiment; to demand justice, simple justice, as the right of every race; to brand with everlasting infamy the lawless and brutal cowardice that lynches, burns, and tortures your own people.

*Thank you, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper,
for paving the way for all women!*

The second remarkable woman that I wish to bring Holy attention to is **Dr. Yvonne Seon**. Born in Washington, DC in 1937, she earned her M.Div. degree in 1981 from Howard University Divinity School and became the first African American woman to enter Unitarian Universalist Parish Ministry. She was ordained by Rev. David Eaton at All Soul's Unitarian Church in Washington, DC. Years later, on Capitol Hill, she founded the first intentionally diverse new start Unitarian Universalist congregation. Dr. Seon was the first African American and only the second woman to hold the position of Secretary on a major U.S. delegation. She held this

continued on page 14

MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY / PARTNER CHURCH

Sunday Offering Recipients

The Generosity Ministry Team invites you to refer to the Unity Church–Unitarian website. Click on “Community Outreach” on the left side of the website and locate the Generosity Ministry Team. Here you will find a statement from the Generosity Ministry Team along with a list of team members and their contact information. Do not hesitate to share any thoughts or questions you have regarding the Generosity Ministry. Also listed are all Sunday Plate Recipients for 2007. If you wish to nominate a recipient, please complete the Recipient Nomination Form and e-mail it to a team member. Use this same form to nominate a repeat recipient. The Offering Recipients for March are:

March 2 — SWAMP: The St. Paul Public Libraries offer five SWAMP (Student and Mentoring Program) sites. Participants range from middle school to adult learners who are not native English speakers. SWAMP provides school supplies and important Internet access for students who do not have home computers. A VISTA staff person who is assisted by community volunteers coordinates the program. The Unity Church collection will go to the SWAMP program at the Rondo Community Library. Several Unity Church members have worked with the Friends of the St. Paul Public Libraries which is the parent organization of SWAMP.

March 9 — YWCA Transitional Housing Program: Since 1996, this program has provided recreational and educational activities for homeless women and their families. Each month, through the YWCA Family Night Out, families are exposed to a world beyond the trauma of homelessness in such activities as visiting the zoo or a museum, attending the theatre, enjoying a picnic or roller-skating together. Due to inflation and funding cuts, the 2008 program has been cut to nine months so the Unity Church offering will go towards restoring the full year program. Unity Church members, Marian Watson, Andrea Bond, Betsy Moore and Lyn Burton have all served on the YWCA Board of Directors.

March 16— Rainbow Rumpus: Rainbow Rumpus is an on-line magazine that celebrates the lives of youth who have lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender parents. Publishing at least twenty-four new titles a year, the organization is the most prolific publisher of children’s and young adult fiction featuring youth with LGBT parents worldwide. By publishing on the web, Rainbow Rumpus makes this literature accessible to youth and families who have no geographic access to a supportive community. Unity Church supporters of Rainbow Rumpus include David Seitz, Shannon and Robby Brumbaugh, Heather and Mike Magee and Jenifer Vanek.

March 23 — Hallman Fund: please see page 3.

March 30—Unity Church Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry Team: The offering for this five-year-plus outreach ministry will go towards supporting the service work of the team that includes Project Home (Unity Church provides temporary housing to homeless families in the month of May) and Habitat for Humanity. This offering will also be used for the work of the Affordable Housing team’s community partner, Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH).

FROM THE PARTNER CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

Blooming Plant Sale

During this benefit for the Partner Church Team, Easter lilies, hyacinths, hydrangeas, and tulips are all available for purchase. The last day to place an order is March 9. Plants will be ready to take home on Sunday, March 16. Have them in your home for Easter!



Balázs Scholar: Rev. Bela-Botond Jakabhazi

The Future of the Transylvania - U.S. Unitarian Partnership

Rev. Bela-Botond Jakabhazi, the 2007-2008 Balázs scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, will visit Unity Church on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

The topic of Rev. Jakabhazi’s lecture will be “The Future of the Transylvania - U.S. Unitarian Partnership”. Following Romania’s accession to the European Union in 2007, large economic and political changes are already underway and their impact is expected to intensify. How might these changes affect the relationships between Unitarians there and Unitarian Universalists here? What will be the ideal relationship in the next 5 to 10 years?

Rev. Jakabhazi will also describe the Balázs Scholar program which since 1994 has brought young Transylvanian Unitarian ministers to a one year residence at Starr King.

All are welcome to attend and listen to the engaging and informative program.

Rev. Jakabhazi graduated in 2002 from the theological seminary in Kolozsvár and serves as minister of the Unitarian Church of Nyomat in Transylvania, Romania. He is especially interested in the psychology of religion and in counseling. He is also interested in religious leadership, Buddhism and meditation practice. His grandfather has been in the ministry for 70 years, and at 92, is the oldest practicing Unitarian minister in Transylvania.

Hungarian Dance ~ Táncház

Saturday, April 12, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.

Unity Church’s Partner Church Ministry Team along with the Minnesota Hungarians will sponsor an evening of Hungarian dancing at Unity Church to help us celebrate the visit of Rev. Bela-Botond Jakabhazi, the 2007-2008 Balázs scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California.

Dance instruction will be available at 5:30 p.m. for children and 6:00 p.m. for adults. Hungarian food will be available for purchase. The recommended donation is \$10 per person, youth under 17 are free. Proceeds go to the Minnesota Hungarians and the Partner Church Ministry Team at Unity Church.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Welcoming the Stranger: A Project Home Volunteer Experience

from Martha Eaves and Bruce Beneke

Unity Church has become a community leader in its commitment to welcoming the stranger and honoring and embracing differences, be they differences of gender, sexual preference, race, culture and residency in a foreign country, age, disability or other differences. Project Home offers a wonderful opportunity to honor these Unitarian values.

For some years now, those in Minnesota who work with the homeless have liked to remind people that the Wilder statisticians [who speak only truth!] determined the answer to this question: *What is the average age of a homeless person in Minnesota?* Answer: Age nine. If you serve as a volunteer during Unity Church's Project Home month, you will want to lower that age to about three years old!

You might be surprised about some of the other information that is gleaned about Minnesota's homeless: usually over 90% of the families who find themselves without a place to live are African American; usually they have already exhausted every other possible option in family's and friend's housing before seeking outside help.

So given this information, why would any of us be fearful to participate in an overnight stay in our beloved church as a host to these families? Each of us may have a personal answer, but I believe the larger answer is that ***we really are afraid of the stranger.*** We are afraid because we do not know the people; we are afraid because many of our guests have a different skin color; we are afraid because we may harbor some lingering stereotypes that our society perpetuates about the homeless; we are afraid because holding a "slumber party" with strangers is just not an ordinary experience!

So let us tell you some of the "good" and the "bad" things about the experience as a Project Home volunteer.

First, the "bad":

- (1) the beds we provide are slippery and crackle every time you move;

- (2) often the space you have is a separate room but you do not have an individual reading light—you know, like that bedside table lamp we like so much to read with;
- (3) the church bathroom is a lot further down the hall at night than is the bathroom in our own house;
- (4) sometimes, one of the guests has to get up at 5:00 am to catch a bus to work and you are that person's personal alarm clock;
- (5) sometimes, the kids are so tired and exhausted that they cry or are demanding, or perhaps worse, are withdrawn.

But now to the "good":

- (1) the people we are hosting just want a comfortable and welcoming place to sleep for themselves and their children, and you can make that happen;
- (2) most of the parents really appreciate a chance to sit, watch TV, or talk among themselves while someone else plays a game with their kids—these parents are really tired from being homeless;
- (3) if you work at it, most of the kids will warm up to you enough to play a game, color, bounce a ball, play dress up or puppet theater (just like our own kids and grandkids will do when we try to entertain them on their own terms);
- (4) once in a while, one of the parents will want to talk with another adult like you...especially if you make an effort to ask, "How are you doing?" or "Is there anything I can do to make your stay here more comfortable?" Just plan to listen and of course, really mean that if they come up with something, you try to make that happen. (For example, get some juice after hours because someone is thirsty, or find an extra pillow or a fan for someone).
- (5) sleeping in the Religious Education rooms is a wonderful experience; you can feel the good energy from the

building seep into you and even with the "bad" beds, the dreams are great!

So when you weigh the "good" list against the "bad" list, is this enough to encourage you to consider being one of the overnight hosts? Open your heart to a new experience with the stranger, and bring your own pillow and if it is hot, a fan or two. We know you can do it! After all, you are a Unitarian!!

Unity Church will host Project Home during the month of May in 2008. Please contact Pat Haff at the Church Office if you would like to be an evening or overnight host!



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM March Whole Farm Orders

Buy meat, cheese, produce and much more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up right at Unity Church from Whole Farm Cooperative. For this month's pickup, place an order at wholefarmcoop.com or 320-732-3023 by Friday, March 14.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, March 12. Pay by sending a check, with the invoice enclosed with your order, directly to Whole Farm.

March 2008 Evergreen Foodshelf

March Evergreen Foodshelf items are peanut butter and jelly. Remember that these items are only suggestions and any nonperishable item can be donated any month. Donations may be left at the barrels at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances at any time.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

During our New Member Recognition Ceremony, we say that, "To become a member of this church means something." It's more than belonging, more than worshipping here on Sunday, more than making as generous a financial pledge as you are able. It's more than signing the membership book and being able to vote at our congregational meetings.

Membership is a profound statement, a bold declaration. It is an individual proclaiming, "I freely choose this faith community. I believe in the vision, mission, and values of this church and will share my gifts to serve that vision. I am willing to let this faith and these people challenge, change, and shape me – and I them, as together, we move closer to living lives of integrity, service, and joy."

Let us celebrate and welcome these new members – all that they are, all that they bring, and all the ways that we will grow together in the spirit of love.

Steve Struhar and

Amanda Cade

from Steve: My wife Amanda and



I moved here two years ago. I taught high school band in Iowa for five years, played trumpet in the Army Band for three years, and now I work as a software quality assurance technician for MakeMusic, a software company that develops Finale music notation software and SmartMusic music practice and accompaniment solutions. I love to run.

from Amanda: I have been visiting Unity Church since September. I am an elementary teacher at Oak Hill Montessori in Shoreview. In my spare time, I enjoy running with my husband (our first marathon was the Twin Cities in October) and learning a variety of new skills and ideas to teach the students at school. In April, Steve and I bought our first house in the Como area of Saint Paul.

Heather McCarl

I live in St. Paul with my partner, Mary, and two year old son, Logan. By day I work as a statistical



modeler at Lexis Nexis, and in the rest of my time I enjoy family activities, reading, singing, playing around on the piano, and just about any type of game (just don't ask me any trivia). I've been a UU for the past nine years and am happy to find I can still discover new facets of my spirituality. I'm so thankful to have found the community that Unity Church offers and look forward to making a spiritual home here.

Lindsay and Jeff Witrock

We live in Forest Lake where Jeff is a second grade teacher at a Spanish immersion school. Lindsay is a graduate student at UW-Stout for mental health counseling with a concentration in eating disorders. We have a two-year-old daughter, Kailyn, and a newborn daughter, Zoe. We're excited about joining Unity Church and hope to get to know some other young families.



Jenn Klug and Sara Campbell

Jenn just moved back here from Wisconsin. She is going to school to become a paralegal. Jenn works and goes to school full-time and still can't wait to join the Unity Church community!



Sara moved to Saint Paul to go attend law school. She is pursuing a dual degree program, a J.D. and a M.S. in Woman's Studies. She is looking forward to practicing GLBT law and is especially looking forward to contributing to and being a part of Unity Church.

Amy Stenson and Bryan Kujawski

Joining Unity Church as a family has been a meaningful process for Bryan and Murphy Kujawski and Amy Stenson. Their Sunday morning routine which includes listening and learning at the service, teaching 7/8 grade R.E., and playing in the Nursery helps prepare them for their busy week. Amy, Murphy and Bryan look forward to connecting with the wonderful Unity Church community.



Anna Martignacco

Anna Martignacco has been attending Unity Church for over five years and only grows more and more interested with the events, groups, people, and opportunities to engage in the church community. Anna has MFA in poetry and teaches college-level writing and literature; she also runs a writing center and organizes internships for students. She lives in St. Paul with her housemate and her really funny cat named Suzie.



Carlotta Jones

I grew up in a small Norwegian community in North Dakota. I was confirmed in the Lutheran faith. I married John who is a Catholic and I became a member of that church. I was still questioning and searching in my spiritual life and I am glad to become a member of Unity Church where that is supported. I work as a home health aide and I love it! I help to keep older people in their homes. My husband, John, is supposed to be retired but now works two jobs. That's what it takes. Our three daughters are in their twenties and no longer live in our home. They are wonderful and are doing well. My mother, who has Alzheimers, is living with us now.



Richard Arey

Richard's bio will be printed in the April *commUNITY* newsletter.



WELLSPRING WEDNESDAYS

March 5

Mixed Green Salad, Vegetarian Eggplant Parmesan,
Sourdough Bread, Rhubarb Cake



- Documentary: *Everyday Heroes: John Turnipseed*
- Money Talk: Demystifying Money — Marianne Combs
- Welcome to Unity Church — Justin Schroeder
- Voluntary Simplicity Group
- Parents of Teens Group: Brain Development
- Kundalini Yoga
- Unity Salon: *Is There Room for a Conservative at the Liberal Table*
To join the on-line Unity Salon discussion, send an e-mail to
unitysalon-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or go to
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/unitysalon/>

March 12

Chana Masala, Curried Cauliflower, Palak Paneer, Naan, Basmati Rice, Cookies

- Pet Euthanasia — Becky Ross
- Money Talk: Entitlement — Marianne Combs
- Singing Our Lives Together — Michael Keyes and Don Brunnquell
- Poetry Night — Bob Steller
- Voluntary Simplicity Group
- Kundalini Yoga

March 19

Hot Pizza, Fresh Salad, Sweet Dessert

- The Moral Ecology of Everyday Life — James Farrell
- Money Talk: Simplicity — Marianne Combs
- Unity Church Men's Group
- Kundalini Yoga

March 26

Shepard's Pie, Lentil Nut Loaf, Salad, Ginger Cake with Rhubarb Compote

- Rebuilding New Orleans — Panel of Unity Church Pilgrims
- The Power of Covenant — Matt Alspaugh
- Money Talk: Meaningful Giving — Marianne Combs
- Mother/Daughter Book Club (Grades 6-8)
- U-knitarians: Knitting and Crocheting
- Kundalini Yoga

Everyday Heroes: John Turnipseed

a Wellspring Wednesday Featured Lecture

Please join the Unity Church Restorative Justice Ministry Team and their community partner, AMICUS, for a life-changing presentation of *Everyday Heroes*, a documentary about the life of John Turnipseed and how restorative justice can make a difference in building a world filled with "Healing and Wholeness."

Mr. Turnipseed is the current Director of the Center for Fathering, a highly successful program of Urban Ventures in Minneapolis. He will answer questions and share how life-affirming change begins on the "inside" (of prison) and flows outward with the amazing power to radically change human beings and the communities they live in.



Money Talk

with Marianne Combs

These are stand alone classes sponsored by the Unity Pledge Drive Team. Classes meet Wednesdays at 7:10 p.m.

MARCH 5 – Demystifying Money

What is money? For many people, money represents freedom and happiness ('the more money I have, the happier I'll be'.) For others, money is a slippery eel or always just out of reach. We'll look at what money really is, and how we can have more control over it than it has over us.

MARCH 12 – Entitlement

We all like a treat now and then, but when is our sense of self-entitlement unhealthy? When is it appropriate to say to ourselves (or our kids), "No." In this conversation we'll look at the emotional triggers for believing we deserve something and the rational questions we should ask ourselves before making an impulse buy.

MARCH 19 – Simplicity

Many tools, products and mechanical devices offer to simplify our lives, but those same items often create clutter, take time to maintain, and create new bills to pay. We'll explore when more is less, and how less is often more.

MARCH 26 – Meaningful Giving

Do you ever find that people give you gifts based more on what they like than what you like? Do you ever overspend on a gift because you're worried about how a smaller gift might be seen? We'll explore ways to give meaningful gifts.

APRIL 2 – Money and Poetry

This session will involve sharing poems about money - by ourselves or by favorite authors - and will challenge us to think more creatively about the greenback, the Franklin, bread, dough, ducats, moulah, dinero... bring your ideas and your art.

Marianne Combs has been an active member of Unity Church Unitarian since 2000. In her professional life she is a reporter for Minnesota Public Radio. In her personal life she is a former student of financial counselor Ruth Hayden's "Women and Money" class. Marianne believes strongly in the transformative power of aligning your financial spending with your personal values.

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

If Walls Could Talk!

Do you know the story behind the skylight in the Sanctuary? How about the Bell Tower, where the high school "Tower Club" meets? Have you seen the St. Martin of Tours stained glass in the chapel?

Our faith has a long and rich history, and so does our building. You're invited to join us for a tour of Unity Church on the first Sunday of every month (March 2, April 6, and May 4) following each service. We'll gather in the back of the Sanctuary and then explore the building together. Tours are given by long time Unity Church members: Betsy Guthmann, Ruth Stryker-Gordon, and Laura Park.

Elders Group: New Growth Emerges

Thursday, March 20

1:00-2:30 p.m.

We meet on the Spring Equinox, celebrated by many traditions as a time of new growth and the springing forth of new life. What new growth emerges in your life? In the lives of those around you? What growth is ready to emerge, and what is held back? Come explore with us. Contact Matt Alspaugh at the Church Office for more information.



Men's Group: Getting Centered and Balanced

Wednesday, March 19 • 7:15

Which people around you sustain you? Which people drain you? How do you find balance as you work with the people you are around? We are trying out a session from the new book *Gatherings: Small Group Ministry for Men*, by Tony Bushman and Bill Hamilton-Holway. Contact Matt Alspaugh at the Church Office for more information.



Pancakes! Pancakes!

Pancake Breakfast!

Our next pancake breakfast is Saturday, March 1, from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. Can't make it? Pancake breakfasts are scheduled for other upcoming Saturdays from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Mark your calendar for: April 12, May 10, and June 14. **The March Pancake Breakfast is hosted by the Unity Church Board of Trustees.**

Women's Journaling Circle

From Story to Sense of the Sacred

Facilitated by Becca Pournoor

This exploration invites you to remember, to reflect upon, to share — to be blessed and transformed by — those stories of deeper meaning from your own life experiences. It is often in circling through our own life stories that we discover what we hold sacred.

For six weeks we will share journal writings, altars, and artwork on topics such as home, attention, being stuck, our feminine guardians, forgiveness, and our spiritual journey. Commitment to weekly attendance is strongly encouraged. Pre-registration is required and class is limited to 15 participants. Contact Becca at bpournoor@msn.com to register.

Class meets Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3 and 10 from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. in the Center Room at Unity Church.

Rebecca Pournoor is a Unity Church member and has facilitated Circling for over eight years.

Sunday Soup Fellowship



There's nothing like a hot soup dinner to beat the winter blues! Join us every Sunday after the 4:30 p.m. service for soup or chili in the Parish Hall. Meet people, enjoy hot soup, and linger! The meal is donation only (\$2-\$5) and everyone is welcome.

Singles' Fellowship Group!

Are you in your late twenties to late forties and looking to find fellowship with other Unitarian-Universalist singles? A new group is forming just for you! In the coming months the group will make plans for events that sometimes take us out of the walls of Unity Church but help us to connect with each other in fun ways. Come take part in helping this group to take shape and grow strong. We invite you to meet with us on one or both of the following dates to get discussions going and to begin having fun.

March 9 after the 11:00 a.m. service: We will meet at the "Single Fellowship" table in the Parish Hall, then go off to lunch together.

March 16 after the 4:30 p.m. service: We will meet in the Center Room for dinner (soup!) and conversation.

To learn more about the group or to sign up, please visit the "Single Fellowship" table in the Parish Hall after the Sunday services from March 2-30, or just come to a meeting! You may also contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office with questions and ideas.

Seeking Church Photos

Do you have pictures of church events? If so, we would like to share them with the congregation via the website, newsletter, and new photo directory. Digital photos can be sent by e-mail to Martha Tilton, martha@unityunitarian.org. Prints and CDs may be placed in Martha's mailbox at the Church Office and will be returned upon request.

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Jello Jamboree Lives!

Friday, March 14

Our annual evening of gelatinous fun has been rescheduled! Join us from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 14, for an evening of Jello-themed games, crafts and competitions!



Plan ahead and create an original work of Jello Art to enter into our Juried Jello Exhibition! Prizes will be awarded in three classes (Kids, Adults and Kid/Adult Teams) four categories (Most Unitarian, Most Creative, Best Engineering and Sheer Mass). Consider preparing your best Jello recipe and entering it in the Recipe Contest!

Childcare will be provided; please contact Christy at the Church Office to sign your six-month to three-year-old child up for the Nursery.

Teddy and the Girls

What is this? Some new rock group? No, it is little Teddy Lentz and his three friends.



On Monday mornings four grandmothers, Ona Lentz, Joan Laux, Joan Duke and Sue Conner, bring our toddler grandchildren to the church nursery from 9:30-11:30 a.m. One of us brings down coffee from the kitchen, one gets a CD player for soothing background music, and we all follow our toddlers around the rooms. We read stories, roll balls, and stack blocks. We all sit down for a snack time and use good manners.

It is a lovely experience. We have been watching as they have watched each other, at first with what seemed to be almost trepidation. We have seen that soften as they now play in close proximity or even, at times, do the same thing in close proximity. We have seen, when one of them cried and cried after a fall, the empathic response in others. We share little stories of their development. We cheer with delight when one of them manages to get up on top of the slide! (Except for Naomi, she seems to do that with no effort.) Now we are watching language as it explodes. I was reading a book to Josephine one day and, after every sentence, Teddy echoed my last word. At the end of the book, I looked at Granny Ona and said, "Wow!" (admiring his prowess) Teddy then, without missing a beat, said, "Wow!" We all burst out laughing. So, we are having a great time. And, I realized the other day that one of the most wonderful things about it, is that we are growing to love each others' grandchildren.

We invite all grandparents with toddler grandchildren to please join us on Monday mornings. Call Sue Conner if you have questions: 651-646-6667.

Election Judges Needed

Ramsey County is seeking election judges for the November 4 presidential election. If you would like to participate please contact Janine Valento at 651-266-2219.

Committed Couples Class

This class is designed to support the work of nurturing our most intimate relationships. We will share in large groups, with our partners, in small group exercises and in individual work. Topics to be covered are: childhood wounding and its effect on relationships, how we manage conflict, the ways we avoid intimacy, the gift of sexuality and bringing the romance back.

Led by Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs, the Committed Couples Class will be held Thursdays, March 20 through May 1 from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. Registration is free/\$100 [pledging/non-pledging]. To register, please contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office.

Childcare is available at no cost, but arrangements for this must be made at least a week in advance. You can request this for all seven classes or just one or more by contacting Christy Randall at the Church Office.

Pathway to Membership

Whether you've been here a month or a year, we welcome and invite you to deepen your relationship with Unity Church by signing up for one of the classes listed below. Please contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office for more information.

Welcome to Unity

Welcome to Unity is offered the following Wednesdays from 7:10 - 8:30 p.m.: March 5, April 2, and May 7.

Finding Yourself at Unity

Welcome to Unity is a prerequisite. Three Tuesday series: March 4, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. and March 11 and 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Light supper will be served.

Committing to Unity

Saturday, April 5 and Saturday, May 17, 9:30 a.m. - noon

Veterans' PTSD Group at Unity Church

A group of veterans is now meeting regularly at Unity Church. Here is the group's goal statement:

Since none of the members are professional therapists or experts on PTSD or MST, the goal is limited to the following: The purpose of forming the group and meeting is for all members to employ their capacities for learning, suggesting, and compassion so that each of us can move forward along our individual paths of recovery from the ill effects of PTSD and MST. Membership involves a commitment to be open, honest, and non-judgmental; and it relies on the premise that sharing one's story among compassionate people can be helpful for both the speakers and the listeners. We fully recognize that the group cannot be a substitute for professional therapy; however, it can be a supplement to and perhaps a bridge to professional help if needed.

The group next meets on Thursday, March 27, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Please contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office for more information.

UNITY CHURCH LIBRARIES / BOOK CLUBS



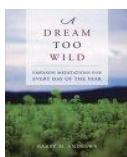
What's New at Unity Libraries

Geneste M. Anderson Adult Library • Bookstall

Elizabeth M. Whitman Children's Library • Bookmobile

I think the greatest gift the church can offer us...is a clear invitation into depth and transformation. I want my church to tell me, "If you do these things they will help you to become the person who you long to be. They will help you live a life of integrity and service and joy." —Rob Eller-Isaacs, "Love, the Guest," December 2, 2007

One of "these things" is spiritual practice which can take many forms, including reading. If poetry, meditations, or other uplifting literature is part of your spiritual practice, Unity libraries may be able to help. To inspire you to reflect on yourself and your faith, to learn more about a complex world, and to pass on the love of reading to the children in your life, consider a few of the new acquisitions in your church libraries:



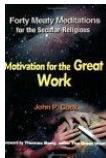
A Dream Too Wild: Emerson Meditations for Every Day of the Year

edited by Barry M. Andrews

Daily meditations are selected from the whole of Emerson's work including sermons and journals, as well as essays and poetry.

Motivation for the Great Work: 40 Meaty Meditations for the Secular-Religious

by John P. Cock



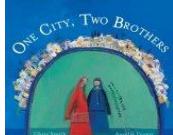
We know we cannot do the great work of care for creation deeply and for long without tending to our spirit. This book is about the next step in our human journey: to become less human-centered and more creation- and Spirit-centered. We are here to care for the good creation, including human reconciliation. — John P. Cock

Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali



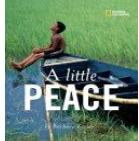
Even the bare facts of this unusual life would make fascinating reading but this book is something more than an ordinary autobiography...*Infidel* describes a unique intellectual journey, from the tribal customs of Hirsi Ali's Somali childhood, through the harsh fundamentalism of Saudi Arabia and into the contemporary West.... *Infidel* is a unique book, Ayaan Hirsi Ali is a unique writer, and both deserve to go far. Washington Post

One City, Two Brothers by Chris Smith, illustrated by Aurelia Fronty



They say that atop a hill where two brothers showed each other great love is the place where Jerusalem began. This tale, hundreds of years old, told by Jews, Muslims, and Christians around the world, is retold in stunning beauty and captivating storytelling.

A Little Peace by Barbara Kerley



Finding and spreading peace is something each person on earth can do. This gorgeous photo-essay of children all over the world shows that "all it takes is one hand, one smile, a single voice" saying hello, making friends, celebrating, helping and more to spread a little peace.

In addition to checking out books from the libraries, the bookstall is open every Sunday after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. We carry a full stock of books from featured programs, suggestions from ministry teams, and even a few new books on mindful traveling and pilgrimage for those seeking warmer climates and new experiences.

Unity Church Book Clubs

Unity Church has two book clubs that you are welcome to join!

The first book club meets from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Gannett Room. The next meeting is March 11. They will be reading *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The April book is *Infidel*, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. The May selection is *People of Darkness* by Tony Hillerman. Meetings are open to all, even if you haven't read the book. Each book has a "sponsor," who begins the meeting by presenting a bit about the author and the selected book.

The second book club meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesdays of the month in the Anderson Library. The next meeting is March 25. They will be reading *The Age of Fallibility* by George Soros. At the beginning of each meeting, there is a quick "go-around" to get everyone's thoughts and responses to the evening's book. Participants are asked to bring a question about the book they've read.

Interweave Book Club

Interweave, the ministry team dedicated to helping to make Unity Church a welcoming place for people of all genders and sexualities, is starting an "Interweave-themed" book club!

The first meeting is Monday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. The book will be *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel. This book club open to anyone who wants to explore the topics of gender identity and sexual orientation through good literature. Please contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office if you're interested in participating.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Raising Young Families Religiously

Project Information Session

Saturday, March 9 • 1:00-3:00 p.m.



Following our successful kick-off workshop in February, a group of Unity parents will convene for an informational session about a year-long project to deeply explore issues facing liberal religious families as they raise their young children.

Whether you were able to join us in February or not, parents of young children are invited to attend this meeting with Bill Doherty and project facilitator, Kerri Meyer. As a community of parents, we have collective expertise from which to draw wisdom and applied practical knowledge.

Topics that arose in the kick-off workshop include creating family rituals, engaging children in moral and theological conversation, confronting cultural obstacles to spiritual growth and modeling the importance of religious community and identity; these issues will likely be at the core of our exploration.

A year from now, the group hopes to have asked deep and challenging questions and produced practical approaches for Unity families to apply in their daily lives.

Childcare will be provided — contact Christy Randall to sign your child up for supervised care. R.S.V.P for this event by contacting Kerri Meyer at the Church Office.

**Unity Church
High School Book Sale!
Mark your calendar!
May 3 and 4, 2008**



Dates for your Family Calendar

Sunday, March 9

Daylight Saving Times begins, 2:00 a.m.
Set clocks ahead one hour.

Friday, March 14

Coming of Age Mentor–Youth Potluck, 6:30 p.m.
Jello Jamboree, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 23

Family Sunday, Easter (all three services)

Sunday, March 30

No Religious Education (Spring Break)

Chalice Camp Registration!

Spaces are still available for Unity's week-long summer day camp, June 23-27. Registration forms are available online at www.unityunitarian.org and in the Church Office. Contact Kerri Meyer for more information.

2008-2009 R.E. Registration

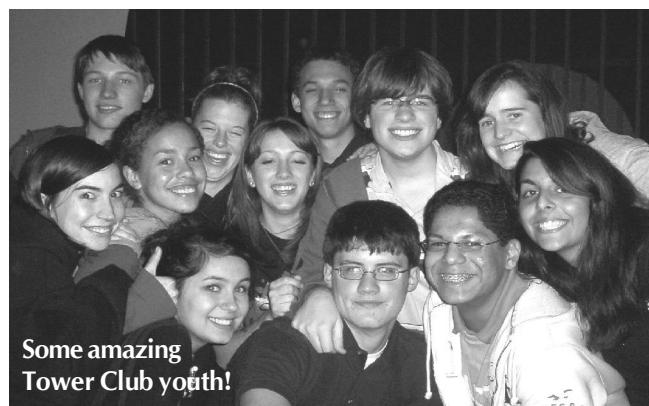
Forms for registering children and youth for R.E. programming and for volunteering in Unity's Ministry with Children and Youth will be in next month's *commUNITY* newsletter. The Early Bird registration deadline will be May 18.

Religious Education Ministry Team

Unity's REMT will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday March 11. The Religious Education Ministry Team supports and informs the R.E. staff's work to create and sustain rich programming in the areas of worship, fellowship and education. Topics on the agenda will include church growth, registration and volunteer recruitment for next year, dreaming for the future as well as topics contributed by team members. All interested adults are warmly invited to attend and to consider committing to this vitally important team of lay leaders. Childcare and a light dinner will be provided. Contact Kerri at the Church Office to R.S.V.P for this quarterly meeting.

Special Recruitment: Seeking Tower Club Advisors

Unity's high school youth group, Tower Club, is looking for two adult advisors to facilitate and support their work on social and environmental justice issues as well as help plan fellowship opportunities. Candidates for this position will demonstrate exceptional coolness and enthusiasm and must have solid faith in the capacity of young people to shape and enrich the world. Skill with Facebook is a bonus, though Kerri has managed without it. Tower Club meets weekly on Sunday afternoons and pursues small-group projects occasionally on other days of the week. Contact Joseph at x112 or joseph@unityunitarian.org.



Some amazing
Tower Club youth!

MUSIC MINISTRIES / FROM OUR INTERNS (CONTINUED)

Congratulations to One Voice!

from Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries



Last fall, One Voice Mixed Chorus moved their offices to the second floor of Unity Church across from the Anderson Library. Unity Church is proud to welcome and include them as part of our church family and we are great supporters of their work both as musicians and ambassadors through our community. For 19+ years, One Voice has united gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and straight allies in working for social change. The mission of One Voice is, "Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song."

Following their most recent performance of *Uncommon Light: Brahms and the Beauty of Shadow*, the Minneapolis Star Tribune printed this review:

One Voice Proves Exceptional Again

At its 20th anniversary concert, the One Voice Mixed Chorus proved that it can take on challenging music with social punch.

By William Randall Beard, Special to the Star Tribune

One Voice Mixed Chorus is a community chorus that was founded to provide an opportunity for men and women in the GLBT community to sing together. Social and political values have always been as important to the chorus' mission as musical ones. But for their 20th anniversary concert, One Voice choir members raised the bar, challenging themselves to new levels of musical proficiency.

And they met that challenge.

The first half of the program was dominated by a rare foray into the work of Johannes Brahms, under the direction of guest conductor Vance George.

A four-time Grammy winner and former artistic director of the San Francisco Orchestra Chorus, Vance held the chorus to a high standard of musicianship including idiomatic phrasing and excellent diction. He was a man of great charm and style, who could make even the schmaltzy "Liebeslieder" Waltzes sound serious.

The centerpiece of the concert was Brahms' "Nänie" (Song of Mourning), a seldom-performed work akin in spirit to the more familiar "German Requiem." For this, the chorus was joined by the St. Paul Central High School Concert Choir. The massed voices produced a professional sound, making easy work of the music's dense textures.

A solo set by the Concert Choir, especially in a motet by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, testified to the outstanding music education program at Central High.

The second half of the concert, under artistic director Jane Ramseyer Miller, returned to more familiar repertoire, selections chosen as much for their message as for their musical value. This is the kind of music that truly inspires the chorus, and they sang with passion and infectious energy.

This set also further demonstrated their ability to handle disparate traditions. From the Civil War song, "Workin' for the Dawn of Peace" that showed off a full, rich a cappella sound, to John Rutter's "Distant Land," an example of the English choral tradition, to the more astringent anthem, "A Palette to Paint Us as We Are" by St. Paul native Elizabeth Alexander, the chorus proved its versatility.

One Voice remains a strong community choir — and one of the best in a very crowded field. Its recent artistic growth sets it up well to move into its third decade.

If you would like to learn more about One Voice, experience their beautiful music, become a supporter or volunteer, or audition for the choir, please stop by their office located on the second floor across from the Anderson Library or visit their website at www.ovmc.org. They will also perform at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services on May 4.

**Save the Date! Arthur Foote Music Sunday
April 20, 2008 • All three services.**

Women, Glorious Women *continued from page 5*

position for the 14th General Assembly of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). Currently, Dr. Seon is professor of African American Studies at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland.

*Thank you, Dr. Seon,
for paving the way for all women!*

Ella Lyman Cabot, (1880-1930) a Unitarian, a pioneer in education and one of the authors of the religious education curriculum published by the American Unitarian Association just before WWII. She reminds us that the past, present and future are inseparable companions on life's journeys. She states, "We sometimes speak as if the past were over and done with: That's past; that's out of date; that's ended. Yet try to obliterate in your thought all that is past. It is impossible, of course, because in so doing we obliterate ourselves. Without the help of what we call the past we could not live at all. The past, instead of being done with, is then the real fiber of the world as we know it. Just as the food we eat nourishes us till it becomes what we act with, so the past is always what we think with."

*Thank you, Ella Lyman Cabot,
for paving the way for all women!*

What was continues to be transformed by what is. What is, is fired by what is hoped for. What is hoped for by justice seeking people inspires me and feeds my spirit for the long walk on the Jericho road to freedom. In my quiet reflection on what has been, the legacies of Frances, Yvonne and Ella flood my mind and remind me that Women have been, and are and will forever be **GLORIOUS!** Yes, glorious and **DIVINE** we are. It is so.

2008 Unity Music CD

The 2008 Unity Music CD, *Journey*, will be released on Sunday, May 4 and will include this year's Arthur Foote Sunday music. Can't wait? 2002 and 2005 Unity Music CDs and 2007 Arthur Foote Sunday Music CDs are still available at the Bookstall in the Parish Hall.

PARISH HALL ART / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

March Parish Hall Artist

Dutton Foster

Since I was very young, I've been drawn visually to the landscape, particularly to the "edge" between human construction and the natural world. I love the utilitarian things we build which also achieve esthetic value. I love farms fitting into their clearings, houses and churches perched on their hilltops, boats on their rivers, railroads tracing the contour lines of their route. I love vernacular architecture and buildings which have evolved bit by bit into unique forms. I love images that recall movement and travel: trains and boats and roadside sightings carrying memories of a happy journey. I'm also fond of moments in which we become aware of the atmosphere – the physical atmosphere of clear sunlight, or fog, snow, or smoke, or twilight at either end of the day.



Human artifacts acquire dignity and poignancy – sometimes even humor - as they age, weather, disintegrate, and disappear. We often take things and people for granted until they are about to go or have already gone. The people, places, and things we care about seem so ordinary and so permanent that we can hardly summon the energy to appreciate them until the shock of illness, catastrophe, demolition or other termination awakens us to their special beauty.

Nostalgia, of course, is treacherous. It's so easy to romanticize the past! It's more fun to paint a farm than to try to make a living from it... Those railroads have been (and remain) means of exploitation of all sorts... And who knows what words of judgmental intolerance haunt the rafters of those lovely churches... Nevertheless, there is sometimes a greatness and often a dearness in our creations, from the *Normandie* to a canoe and from the great cathedrals to the village church.

Ferroequiphilia, or the love of trains, requires a note of explanation. Trains and the railroads are no longer at the heart of small-town American life. The steam locomotive, often called the most human of machines created in the industrial age, is a rarity in this century, and its mournful whistle seldom beckons us to faraway places. As a child on Osceola Avenue, I listened in bed to the blasts of steam exhaust from teamed locomotives dragging wartime freight up the Short Line below St. Clair Park. Even before my first Lionel set, I was hooked on trains. I photograph them, chase them, read about them, pore over old timetables. I worked on the railroad for two summers, hitched illegal rides on freight trains, spent a night in jail. I scan the countryside for traces of long-gone lines. I build model trains and run them in the back yard. And I draw and paint them.

My love of painting and of the subjects which I paint owes much to my mother, Betty Foster, who loved exploring the world and all its nooks and crannies; and to my wife Caroline, who is my best critic and always patient when I pull the car over to scramble out for photographs of a possible subject.

March 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: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, March 10 and 24 • 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Contact: Phil Morton, 952-934-3578

Unity Divorce/Transitions Group

Meets every Saturday • 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

Unity Singles Group

Watch *This Week at Unity* for scheduled events.
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

A New Look at the Bible

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

Afterthoughts

Every Sunday following the 9:00 a.m. service
Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

Unity Young Adult Group

Second and fourth Sundays of each month following the 4:30 p.m. service. Contact: Joseph LaFerla at the Church Office.

Mother-Daughter Book Club (grades 6-8)

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month as part of Wellspring Wednesday.
Contact: Ginny Allen, 651-645-7176

Unitots!

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

Grandparent Unitots!

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

Unity Bridge Club

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

Evergreen Quilt Group

Second Tuesday of each month • 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Saturday of each month • 10:30 a.m.
Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

Unity Book Clubs

Second Tuesday of the month • 7:00 p.m. -or-
Fourth Tuesday of the month • 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, April 19, 2008
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Racism at Unity Church: What's Next?

A discussion with Michael Cowan,
community leader from New Orleans.

Saturday, April 26, 2008
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Minnesota's Future

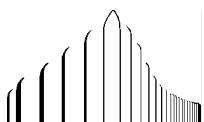
A Samuel Morgan Forum with
a panel of state visionary leaders.

New Orleans Gospel Choir



Host Families Needed • April 17-20

Unity Church is one of a number of St. Paul churches co-hosting the upcoming visit of the Shades of Praise, an interracial gospel choir from New Orleans. The Shades will perform on April 18, 19, and 20 in nearby churches with Unity Church members being part of the organizing team. Host families are needed to house the Shades of Praise choir members on the evenings of April 17, 18, and 19. If you are interested in housing a member of this New Orleans gospel choir, please contact Rick Heydinger at 612-747-7540. This is an opportunity to discuss firsthand the ravages of Katrina and its aftermath with those who experienced it firsthand.



UNITY CHURCH – UNITARIAN

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