

## Gratitude

Each month worship, religious education, community outreach ministry, covenant groups, and Wellspring Wednesday programs will offer opportunities to contemplate, consider, contend with and discuss an intergenerational curriculum based on monthly themes. Our hope is that this approach will bind us more closely together and inform our lives in effective and positive ways. November's theme is... Gratitude

It feels good to be grateful; when something wonderful happens, when the sun comes out after three days of gloom, when wildflowers bloom in mountain meadows, a feeling of gratitude wells up in us and we turn toward the beauty and bow just a bit to our Maker. Gratitude, then, is a feeling and it can be ever so much more. It can be a discipline. With practice over time gratitude can become a way of life.

The great Unitarian poet e.e. cummings wrote, "i thank you god for most this amazing day." When embraced as a spiritual practice, gratitude can make most every day amazing. Gratitude can teach our eyes to see. Imagine, if you will, the worst possible conditions. Our minds turn toward the brutalities of war, the horrors of the concentration camps, the more intimate agonies of grief. In every situation, no matter how dire, there is room for gratitude.

In *Man's Search for Meaning*, his brilliant reflection on his experience as an inmate in the German camps, Victor Frankel asks us to remember that even there, even in the midst of terror and torture and the ultimate degradation, human beings are able to choose. Some say the final existential choice is suicide. God says, "I set before you life and death, blessings and curses, choose life that you and your descendants might live." Might not the final existential choice be gratitude?

When we first hear terrible news the bottom falls out of the world. We feel as though we are falling. Then, by some mysterious partnership of mind and heart, we catch ourselves mid-air. Rather than submit to the downward spiral into despair we start to see how grief carves out a place where gratitude takes root. In the midst of grief it's sensible to ask, what gifts did the one I've loved and lost bring into the world? How can I cultivate like gifts in my life? Such questions and the answers they inspire help to turn our grief to gratitude. The ability to transform suffering is one of the most powerful results of spiritual maturity.

The great American Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield writes in *The Wise Heart*:

*i  
thank  
you god  
for this  
amazing  
day*

"Gratitude is a gracious acknowledgement of all that sustains us, a bow to our blessings, great and small. Gratitude is the confidence in life itself. In it, we feel the same force that pushes grass through cracks in the sidewalk invigorate our own life. In Tibet, the monks and nuns even offer prayers of gratitude for the suffering they have been given: 'Grant that I might have enough suffering to awaken in me the deepest possible compassion and wisdom.' Gratitude does not envy or compare. Gratitude receives in wonder the myriad offering of rain and sunlight, the care that supports every single life. As gratitude grows it gives rise to joy."

### Worship Theme Resources

#### Books

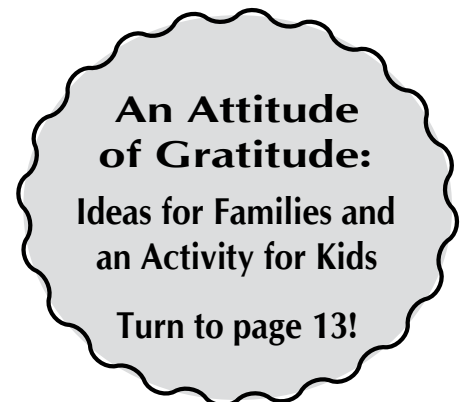
*Gratefulness: The Heart of Prayer*  
David Steindl-Rast (Paulist Press 1990)

*The Grateful Heart: Daily Blessings for the Evening Meal from the Buddha to the Beatles*  
M.J. Ryan, Editor (Conari Press 2002)

#### Films

*Pay it Forward*  
(2000) Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt and Haley Joel Osment star in this touching tale of the transforming power of gratitude. A great family film appropriate for children 8 and over.

*Awakenings*  
(1990) Robert De Niro, Robin Williams and Julie Kavner come together to bring the Oliver Sacks book to life.



**An Attitude  
of Gratitude:  
Ideas for Families and  
an Activity for Kids**

**Turn to page 13!**

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# JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

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## Just Words

Thanksgiving has always been the holiest day of the year for me. I love the Christian holidays, the tender babe at Christmas, the hope of Easter resurrection. I've embraced the Days of Awe the ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur as an opportunity for contemplation, confession and reconciliation. When it comes to holidays I take full advantage of the large embrace of Unitarian Universalism. But my heart is moved most at the harvest. For Americans, Thanksgiving has become the first and best way to celebrate the pluralistic vision which we call Beloved Community.

I grew up in a neighborhood that knew how to celebrate Thanksgiving. The season began each year on October 24th as the community gathered for United Nations Day. There was folk dancing and singing, wonderful food, and colorful costumes. It was the beginning of an annual ritual to renew our National covenant, not to be a melting pot per se but more of a mosaic. I was brought up to think of the human community as beautiful because of our diversity not despite it. And in a month or so the feast day came. But before the marvelous meal was served, before the families gathered at their glittering tables, the whole community came together in the grand embrace of Rockefeller Chapel.

It held us, all five thousand of us, in the full glory of our diversity, as we sang and prayed our hearts out.

“Let all those now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God in the highest triumphantly raise.  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us  
And guideth us on till the end of our days.”

We sang our hearts out to the one God who fashioned and made us all. And as we sang we were learning in the very depths of our being what Beloved Community means. Not some of us, all of us, everyone is worthy of God's love. Everyone, even that last recalcitrant, resistant soul will be, as our Universalist forbearers taught, “dragged kicking and screaming into heaven.” Now that's a theology for which we can wholeheartedly give thanks.

Yes I do surely love Thanksgiving. I hope that someday, here in Saint Paul, we can be part of a community celebration like the one I experienced as a child. But there's something nagging at me. Thanksgiving ought to be earned. Most of us reap a harvest we haven't helped to sow. Last month Mark Morrison-Reed in wrestling with the challenges of forgiveness brought us a suggestion from our friends at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Why not institute a National Day of Fasting? It could be a ritual opportunity as a Nation, to confess our shortcomings and move toward truth and reconciliation. I imagine it being held on the fourth Thursday in April, six months opposite Thanksgiving. Let's make it happen.

Know, dear friends, our family holds you chief among our many blessings.

Yours,  
Rob Eller-Isaacs

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## *The Wheel of Life*

### In Celebration

**Josephine Katherine Schwartz**  
born September 29, 2008  
daughter of  
Teresa and David Schwartz

### In Remembrance

**Ralph A. Flood**  
November 16, 1920 -  
October 7, 2008  
father of Rebecca Flood and her  
partner, Ruth MacKenzie

## Notary Public at Unity

As a service to the congregation, Notary Public services are available free of charge. Contact Julie Handberg to set up a time. Her office hours are Tuesday through Friday and she can be reached at [julieh@unityunitarian.org](mailto:julieh@unityunitarian.org), or 651-228-1456 x. 110.

## Volunteer Help Wanted

The Unity Church ministers and staff rely on each weekday Front Desk Volunteer who greets and assists guests of the church, directs phone calls to the right person, and helps with various projects. Being hospitable is a basic requirement. You will be well trained to do the rest. Getting to know a great and appreciative staff is just one of several benefits. For more information, contact Julie Handberg at [julieh@unityunitarian.org](mailto:julieh@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x. 110.

## Daylight Saving Time Ends

Set your clock back  
one hour on Sunday,  
November 2 at 2:00 a.m.



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# NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

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Sunday services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. except where noted.  
Sermon podcasts and archives are available on line at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org).

## Worship Calendar

### November 2

#### **Thank You George — Rob Eller-Isaacs**

We owe so much to so many. As we prepare our minds and hearts for the election Tuesday let's think about thanking the Georges; George the Third, George Washington, George M. Cohan, George Gershwin and yes friends, the Georges Bush. Rob will be joined by Worship Associate Sarah Pradt and musical guests Ruth Mackenzie and Dan Chinouard.

### November 9

#### **The Grammar of Our Lives: Gratitude — Janne Eller-Isaacs**

Like grammar and syntax provide structure for our language and communication, gratitude can provide the underlying structure to our lives. Janne and Worship Associate Nick Raths will explore the role that gratitude can play in everyday living, particularly when challenged with pain and disappointment.

### November 16

#### **Practicing Gratitude — Rob Eller-Isaacs**

Saying thank you is good manners but it can be ever so much more. Giving thanks can be a way of life. It can be a deeply nourishing spiritual practice. Rob and Worship Associate Amy Stenson will offer a few lessons in gratitude from their own experience.

### November 23

#### **Partners in Joyful Thanksgiving — Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs, Kerri Meyer, Leon Dunkley**

Our dear friends in Homorodszpeter, our partner village in Transylvania, have done so much to deepen and enrich our lives. Ray Wiedmeyer, recently returned from pilgrimage, will offer a reflection on his journey as the whole Unity Church family gathers to give thanks.

### November 30

#### **Thank You, Summer Days (36x30) — Leon Dunkley**

Such a small thing to be thankful for... not even three feet square. In 1936, Georgia O'Keefe put oil on canvass. She painted the skull of a deer and some flowers floating in the clouds above a barren range of gentle hills as a way of saying "thank you" for their beauty and their gift. What great and small things have we to be thankful for?

## Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, seventy percent of the offering collection is given to non-profit agencies within the larger community. The remaining thirty percent supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church.

### November 2 — Open Cities Health Center

Open Cities Health Center began in 1967 as a volunteer outreach project serving low-income African American residents in St. Paul. Today OCHC is a complete health care center providing general medicine, dental care and family planning by African American family practice staff. In 2007 OCHC served over 4000 underinsured or uninsured clients each month, many from St. Paul's growing immigrant communities. Unity Church member Vivian Stone has been a longtime board member at OCHC.

### November 9 — Southern Minnesota Legal Services (SMRLS)

SMRLS provides legal services to low income people to give them access to the justice system and maintain freedom from hunger, homelessness, sickness and abuse. In poor economic times, the need for civil legal services to prevent eviction and homelessness, to assure access to education and health care, to address increased domestic violence and help people manage debt and job loss rises as funding sources diminish. Unity Church members Bruce Beneke and Martha Eaves are staff attorneys for SMRLS and other church members serve as current and former board members and supporters including Sally Scoggins and Beverly Heydinger.

### November 16 — I Love A Parade

I Love a Parade is a non-profit organization employing women who are chronically homeless (more than five times or five years) to create high quality art from recycled and found objects. The mission of I Love a Parade is two-fold: to offer alternative work opportunities, through the arts, for women who have not been able to maintain employment and to reshape public images of people who are homeless. I Love a Parade's Director is Sandra Haff, sister of Pat Haff, Coordinator of Community Outreach Ministries at Unity Church.

### November 23 — Partner Church Ministry Team

The intent of the Partner Church Team is to develop a mutually rewarding relationship between the Unity Church community and that of our sister church in Homorodszpeter, Transylvania, in Romania. The Unity Church community grows with the challenges of developing a cross-cultural relationship and as our relationship deepens with Homorodszpeter, both congregations will experience a transforming love.

### November 30 — Clare Housing

In honor of World AIDS Day (December 1, 2008), Clare Housing will receive the collection on November 30. Clare Housing provides a continuum of compassionate care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Clare Housing is currently raising money for Clare Apartments Midtown. This 45-apartment facility will serve low-income people living with HIV/AIDS who are at risk of homelessness. Clare Housing operates six residential facilities in the Twin Cities. Unity Church member Dick Buggs has been involved in the annual Red Ribbon AIDS Trek, one of the annual funding sources of Clare Housing.

**Want to Nominate the Plate?** Have your favorite non-profit organization be a Sunday offering recipient. Go to [www.unityunitarian.org/givingawaytheplate.htm](http://www.unityunitarian.org/givingawaytheplate.htm). The form is also at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays.

# PLEDGE DRIVE / BLESS THE WORLD

## Pledge Testimonial

from Steve Nelson, Unity Church member

Pledging at Unity Church seems an awful lot like voting to me. My pledge is saying that when it comes down to a yes or no vote, I'm on the side of people who look at a cruel and frightened world and see the possibility of beauty, justice, sustainability and compassion. My pledge is saying that I want to be that "one more" who works for a beloved community, and that Unity is making it possible for me to do more in that work than I could do alone. My pledge is also a promise to the church that the projects we begin today will be supported financially, not just when I hear an inspiring sermon or have an extra \$5 in my pocket, but every day of the year.

*Each year members of the congregation speak about their financial commitment to the church at a Sunday service during what has commonly been known as the "Pledge Drive." This year we are expanding on this idea, recognizing that sharing our stories is a significant part of what it means to be a community and considering how we support this community must not be limited to a few weeks of the year. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts in these pages, please contact Lia Rivamonte, Pledge Team member, at 651-224-6108 or [lia.rivamonte@gmail.com](mailto:lia.rivamonte@gmail.com).*

**The 2009 Pledge Drive  
officially closes November 9.**

**Please return your pledge card today! Thank you!**

**Living Our Values**

**Unity Church–Unitarian  
Pledge Drive 2009**

**Integrity Joy  
Service**

## Bless the World Stories

So many blessings so little space! If you would like to read more or share your own story, please visit: <http://unitychurchblesstheworld.blogspot.com> or send an e-mail to [unity@unityunitarian.org](mailto:unity@unityunitarian.org)

Ever since I visited an intern at what was then the Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter, I have wanted to help support their important work. This was a great opportunity to take the money that was given to us and quadruple it to help women and children, victims of domestic violence, that are served by the Tubman Family Alliance.

Our solution to this challenging problem was to give the funds to Ten Thousand Things Theater, whose central mission is to bring high quality theater to people who are normally denied access to it due to economic and/or physical barriers. The funds we were given will buy a tank of gas for their van as it travels to the men's and women's correctional facilities - with perhaps some left over to drive to a performance at a public housing site. This means close to a thousand people get the gift of an experience that restores and enriches human connection, stimulates the senses and brings light and laughter to those who need it the most. Thanks for the opportunity to take on this task and share in the distribution of blessings to the world.

We used these funds towards the purchase of second-hand winter coats and scarves for Mu Dah and her husband, Bwei Paw. They and their two children are political refugees from Burma. They are living in the Lake Phalen neighborhood of St. Paul.

We matched the \$40.00 and gave it to District 202, a Minneapolis organization that assists GLBT youth, especially those who have been abandoned, either literally or figuratively, by their families. Many of the kids who make use of the services of District 202 are on the streets.

We asked that the money be used to augment the class that District 202 offers, Queer Sex Ed. We did this in part because our kids have taken and benefitted from the OWL (Our Whole Lives) class and we wanted other kids to experience something similar — something that teaches responsibility for self and others as well as an opportunity to think about the joy and love that is possible in a mutual sexual relationship.

We figured that this was living our values — helping young adults who may be marginalized because of their sexual orientation.

We were speechless when the money was distributed in church that Sunday. After discussing possible recipients, we each matched the \$20 we received and donated \$60 to Second Harvest Heartland. They are one of our favorite charities because they can get \$9 worth of food for every \$1 that they receive.

## Linking to Our Moral Owners

from Ann Nelson, Trustee

Each time I'm with people from Unity Church, I feel a sense of gratitude – gratitude for each of you and the community that we share. Whether in worship together on Sunday morning, sharing a Wellspring Wednesday dinner, making a pilgrimage to New Orleans, or participating in a Board of Trustees meeting, I feel at home and grateful for the values, connections, hopes and dreams that we share.

I have often thought, "Wow, wouldn't it be amazing to personally know and feel a connection with each person who is a part of our religious community." As my experiences and connections at Unity have deepened, this vision has broadened to encompass the moral ownership of Unity Church – those who yearn for the Beloved Community and see Unity Church as an instrument for its realization.

One of the Board of Trustees most important responsibilities is linking with our ownership and bringing the voices of moral owners into all decision-making and planning for the future. This fall the Unity Board is developing a more systematic approach to linkage to help ensure it is integrated as a regular and ongoing part of our work.

As we seek more effective and broader linkage, we are identifying opportunities for Trustee linkage with Unity members, friends and other moral owners through vehicles such as meetings and conversations with individual ministry teams, our partner organizations, and the larger community. We look forward to your input and participation in this important and challenging work with those who yearn for the Beloved Community.



## • Unity Church Annual Meeting

- Unity Church will hold its **second** Annual Meeting of the year on November 22, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary following a pancake breakfast hosted by the Board of Trustees. At this meeting, the Board will report to the congregation and present the budget for 2009.
- At the **first** annual meeting in May, voting members approved new Ends Statements, voted in three new Trustees, passed a resolution to change the fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year, and approved an interim budget to take us through the last half of 2008. The November meeting will focus on approving a budget for 2009. Current Trustees have agreed to serve an additional six months so that we can elect new Trustees at next year's annual meeting in November of 2009.
- The change in the fiscal year was made so that the Board could be better informed regarding the results of the pledge drive — a major consideration in building our budget. **This year's pledge drive concludes on November 9!**
- Please join us — first for pancakes and then for some time to reflect on the work of the church! All are welcome.



## An Intern's Public Journal—Entry Two

The privileges of newness slowly wane, just like this season. The brilliant reds and yellows exhaust themselves, drying into gentler auburns and browns. They make their leaps from branches and descend with average grace - a strange arrival - blanketing lawns well enough for raking. The earth is new to falling leaves in these first moments on the ground and yet, for them and for me, this newness slowly wanes. For this, I am grateful. It means that the turning inward is almost here.

My spiritual energy seems to follow the sun. When its arc gets low across the sky, when the light bounces naked and at strange angles around my room, when other signposts in nature confirm the motion, I go within. I go within but I leave signs of the journey. I like to be romantic about my solitude. So, I leave traces so that love and life can find me. I leave signs as a kind of personal sacrament, as a small monument to the great changes in life. I leave traces, I leave signs and I write poems. I offer them privately as little, silent sermons to the world.

and high upon this altar, they did place an offering and they gathered those who loved them to their side to witness that cathedral of their presence happening, to sanctify this moment in their lives as if raising hands to hold a gentle breeze

Autumn is quite beautiful here. You get outward support for the inward journey. In California, nature can almost make you feel guilty about turning in. The few leaves that fall do so uneventfully. There are no rituals, no ceremony. Baseball season ends as football season is beginning. The change seems more an act of diversity rather than a function of the weather. A wide variety of produce is still in season. There are even flowers still in bloom. It's unsettling.

The upside is that the world does not become glacial. I have nightmares of winter in Minnesota. I fear the thought of seven inches of snowfall an hour over a period of eight or nine days. Unable to find the church under 112 feet of snow, I return to the safety of my bed to stay warm only to receive a call on my cell phone. In the dream, the staff meeting at church had started on time and I was late (which would have been fine had it not been my turn to bring the donuts). Everyone else was there — in shorts. The dream is harrowing. So, I get up and put on an extra pair of socks and go to work — grateful.

Every blessing.

Id

# COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

## Wellspring Wednesdays

**November 5**

**Dinner: wheatberry soup, crackers and cheese, New England pudding**

- The Masters and The Path — Dr. George Catlin
- Welcome to Unity: A Class for Newcomers — Justin Schroeder
- Ethical Wills: Legacy, Content and Comfort — Janne Eller-Isaacs
- Your Money Life: What's Wrong With Us? — Marianne Combs
- Teens Serve it Up: International Happenings — Jr. High Youth Group
- Kundalini Yoga

**November 12**

**Dinner: baked pasta, garlic bread, caesar salad, chocolate chip cookies**

- Gratitude and the Way of Zen — Ken Ford
- Singing Meditation — Katy Taylor
- Speed Connecting — Zack Steven, Teresa Thomas-Carrol, Ann Nelson
- Your Money Life: What Did We Learn About Money? — Marianne Combs
- Mano a Mano Ministry Team
- Teens Serve it Up: Bakin' in the Kitchen — Jr. High Youth Group
- Kundalini Yoga

**November 19**

**Dinner: pizza, salad, dessert**

- Facts on the Ground — Bea Eichten
- Your Money Life: Unlearning Our Learning — Marianne Combs
- Ethical Wills: Legacy, Content and Comfort — Janne Eller-Isaacs
- Teens Serve it Up: Film for Good — Jr. High Youth Group
- Kundalini Yoga

**November 26**

**No Wellspring Wednesday ~ Happy Thanksgiving!**

## Black Friday at Unity Church

**Feeding the Spirit on the Feast Day of Consumption**

**Friday, November 28, 2008 • 10:00 a.m. until Noon**

"Black Friday at Church" is a bold new initiative at Unity Church—Unitarian to launch the Christmas season as a time of spiritual renewal instead of frantic over-consumption.

We will gather on the Friday morning after Thanksgiving (Black Friday in the consumer world) in a worship service featuring cultural critique, spiritual depth, children's involvement, and some fun.



Kevin Kling

The service will be led by Janne Eller-Isaacs, Ruth Mackenzie, and other members of the UU Christmas Reclamation Project. **Playwright and storyteller Kevin Kling will be our special guest.** Afterwards, breakout groups will go deeper into the religious and cultural challenges and opportunities in the Christmas holiday season, what Advent might look like from a UU perspective, and how we might make changes in our own lives.

We hope that this event will attract media attention—and therefore generate broader cultural conversation—for our church's decision to challenge the culture of consumption and find new ways to feed our spirits during the Christmas season.

## Advent Journey

**Sunday, December 7, 2008 • 1:00 until 4:15 p.m.**

**Unity Church—Unitarian**

Join us for a three-hour talking circle as we tell our stories and explore the significance and values inherent in the winter festival season. As described by author Kay Pranis, "Circles bring us together to share who we are beyond our appearances. They're places of listening – of hearing what it's like to be someone else. They're also places for being heard – for expressing what's on our minds and hearts and having others receive it deeply. Telling our stories in the safe space of Circles opens windows on each other's lives, giving us moments when we can witness the path another has walked as well as feel that others appreciate our own path."

Please bring an item to share in our circle. It could be an object, a poem, or a photograph that represents or brings meaning to your winter festival season.

Everyone age 15 or over is welcome. For more information and to RSVP contact Eric Lein at [Advent-elein@apts.cc](mailto:Advent-elein@apts.cc) or 651-227-0486. To reserve childcare for this workshop, please e-mail Christy Randall today at [christy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:christy@unityunitarian.org).

## Thanksgiving Gatherings

Thanksgiving is a time for families and friends to gather to celebrate the harvest, cook and converse! It is also a perfect time to open our hearts and homes to new friends. Over the years, our family has invited many Unity guests to join us at our holiday table and found it to be great fun. Everyone brings a favorite dish to share, and the conversation flows naturally.

If you are among those without family nearby and would like to join other Unity members for Thanksgiving, or if you have extra space at your table and would like to host a Unity guest or two, please come to the sign-up table in the Parish Hall after services on November 16 and 23, or contact Anna Newton at 651-483-2986 or [newtona@comcast.net](mailto:newtona@comcast.net).

# COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

## What's New at Unity Libraries?

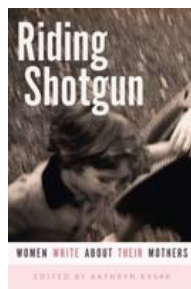


Geneste M. Anderson Adult Library • Bookstall  
Elizabeth M. Whitman Children's Library • Bookmobile

The library will host an open house after every service on Sunday, November 2. There will be refreshments, prizes and, of course, talk about books. We hope to see you there.

Featured in the libraries this month are books focusing on women (in the Anderson adult library) and titles exploring gratitude (in the Whitman children's library). The libraries, on the second floor of the parish hall, are open after every service. These and all books in the libraries may be checked out.

**Riding Shotgun: Women Write about Their Mothers** by Kathryn Kysar, Jonis Agee and others. (2008). This anthology of 21 essays views mother-daughter relationships through the lens of class, region, ethnicity, death and love.



**Circle of Stones: Woman's Journey to Herself** by Judith Duerk. (2004). This book considers our present lives from the perspective of women's ancient culture and ritual. Duerk uses stories, dreams and visions to lead the reader into a spiritual journey.

In **I Can Make a Difference**, Marian Wright Edelman says, "I can make a difference by being grateful for the gift and wonders of life," and illustrates this with poems, a quote, and a wonderful Zen story from Japan.

Chief Jake Swamp leads by example in expressing gratitude for the gifts of the earth in **Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message**.

## Book Club Update

### Unity Church Book Clubs are open to all!

THE SECOND TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11. The book they will be discussing is *Body Surfing* by Anita Shreve. Each book has a "sponsor" who begins the meeting by presenting a bit about the author and the book.

## Mother/Daughter Book Club

Unity's mother-daughter book club meets once a month for discussions of mostly modern and occasionally classic young adult literature. They welcome girls in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The book selections are all made by the girls, and the discussions are girl led. The book for the next meeting will be *The Hollow Kingdom*, by Clare B. Dunkle. Several copies are available in both the St. Paul and Ramsey County libraries. The club meets the third Wednesday of the month, at 7:10 p.m. Their next meeting will be November 19. They will discuss *The Hollow Kingdom*, and also come up with a schedule for the girls to choose books for the rest of the year. New members are welcome! Please contact Millie Adelsheim for more information at [millie@peapods.com](mailto:millie@peapods.com) or 651-917-7378.

## Prairie Star District Awards

Every spring, at the district conference, the Prairie Start District acknowledges those hard-working UUs who bring life and vitality to our congregations. Nominate someone from Unity Church! Categories include: social justice (youth or adult), lifetime UU, outstanding congregation, contribution to UU religious education, and more! Nomination forms and more information is online at: [www.psduua.org](http://www.psduua.org).

## Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast



November 8  
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

You'll enjoy local sausage, OJ, all you can eat pancakes, and lots of lingering and good conversation. **Bring a friend!** Cost: \$3 per person or \$10 per family. After you fill up on pancakes, relax at a book reading or get moving and help clean up leaves around the church.

## Book Reading

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**Riding Shotgun: Women Write about their Mothers** edited by Unity Church member Kathryn Kysar



With honesty and extraordinary self-knowledge, twenty-one accomplished authors illuminate the mother-daughter relationship — intimate, complicated, loving, flawed — with humor and clarity. With an introduction by Kathryn Kysar, two of these authors, Faith Sullivan and Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew, will be reading from their work.

*Kathryn Kysar teaches writing in Minneapolis, and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Norcroft, the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts.*

## Congregational Leaf Raking

9:00 a.m. - noon

Come to the pancake breakfast and fill up on tasty cakes, then help clean up leaves after you eat (bring a rake and gloves!) No prior garden experience necessary. Please RSVP to Anna Newton 651-483-2986 or [newtona@comcast.net](mailto:newtona@comcast.net).

## Special Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, November 22

Before the **second** Annual Meeting. See page 5 for details.



# Unity Church–Unitarian Goods & Services AUCTION

**Saturday December 6, 2008  
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

Unity Church is having a fundraising (and fun-raising!) auction to benefit the church and the programs it supports. This is a chance for all of us to live out our values of integrity, service, and joy — especially joy!

**Here's how to get involved:**

## **Donate!**

**If you can** sing like a Etta James, dance like Fred Astaire, or cook like Julia Child (or if you aspire to!)

**If you like to** entertain small children or unruly adults, give advice (both wanted and unwanted), or fix anything from a fancy car to a broken TV

**If you know** just enough about anything to be dangerous or you're a bona fide expert

**If you have** access to a cabin up north or a condo down south or a friend's house in the mountains or your in-laws place at the beach

**If you own** season tickets to the Guthrie or the Vikings or the Minnesota Orchestra or the local ski hill

**Then you have something to donate to the auction!** Get a donations form at church or fill it out online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org). **Act fast! Deadline for taking donations is November 17.**

## **Volunteer!**

**Sign up** for one or more of these committees, or tell us what you'd like to do.

**Donations • Food and Beverage • Tickets • Event Management**

## **Come to the Party!**

**Mark your calendars** for this fun holiday event, including a **Silent Auction** of goods and services with price ranges for all budgets! Plus a **Live Auction**, a **Raffle**, and items to purchase. **Food and drink, live entertainment**, and jollies for all!

**Tickets** and a schedule of the evening's events are available at the Auction Table in the Parish Hall after Sunday services. Or for more information, follow the link for the **Jolly Holly Auction** at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org).

**Childcare** will be available during the event. Contact Christy Randall at the Church Office to request childcare.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



**Bill Batcher and  
Kate O'Brien**

**From Bill:** I work for a company called Maximus. It sells almost

exclusively to government - state, local and federal. It is a good fit for me. I have 25 years of public sector experience - 10 years with Ramsey County and 15 with the state. My greatest current passion is playing cribbage with my wife, Kate. If you ever see us at breakfast on Saturday you will see us with our cribbage board. We have come to Unity to share a community together. We have joined the Bridge group and enjoy that very much.

**From Kate:** I work for Thomson-West, writing user guides for Westlaw and other software products. I like my work because it combines my interests in computers, writing, creating, and teaching. After a long absence from Unity, I'm amazed to see the growth in opportunities to share gifts and build community. I'm glad to be a part of it again - and to share it with my husband, Bill.

## **Brad Benson and Jane Baer**

Brad and Jane are originally from Central Illinois and met in Ms. Poole's high school freshman English class in 1982. After college, they decided the long distance thing was overrated and got married before moving south to Nashville for grad school. In 1994, they moved to St. Paul for further training and now have 4 little Minnesotans of their own. Brad works at the U of MN where he is a primary care physician and directs the combined Internal Medicine & Pediatrics residency program; and Jane, who is taking a break from being an audiologist, is currently home with Henry (9), Oliver (7), Abe (3), and Violet (15 months). Family activities consume most of their time and energy and include outdoor excursions, travel, reading together and the daily craziness of life. The family motto is "Embrace the chaos!" They have enjoyed making Unity Church a part of our life and look forward to being a real part of this community

## **Chuck Griggs**

I have been active in Unity for a few years already so a number of people know me. I am looking forward to getting to know more of you. I am the father of three wonderful grown sons (youngest is 19). Mom and I are divorced and have a good parenting relationship. I make my living selling computer products that the company designs and manufactures. I enjoy exploring customers' plans and seeing where we can help them.

I have known of Unity Church since childhood. I grew up in the area and remember the church fire as a grade school student across the street. But I came to investigate and explore only about 5 or 6 years ago. I have confirmed that as a worshiping community, this fits for me.

I have reawakened my joy of music participation the past few years, and choir practice and performance is a highlight of my week. I am also learning piano (slowly). My other primary hobby is tennis, and I enjoy cooking. I enjoy group dinners and getting out to hear live music with friends.

With my children grown and out, I am exploring and re-evaluating several parts of my life, and the Unity community is part of that process.



**Rich Kooyer**



**Carol LeBorveau**



**(l to r): Maddie Hite-Smaka, Oliver Alexander-Adams, Nathan Eckstein, and Kathryn Litzau**

## **Mariah Sheehy**



At Unity so far I have been enjoying the people, the worship, Wellspring Wednesday and

helping the Library Team. My hobbies include writing, crafts and researching family history. I am also involved in political activism and reviving Irish/Scottish spiritual and cultural traditions. I'm looking to make new friends and share these interests and more with the congregation.

## **Welcome to Unity: Our Class for Newcomers**

This class is geared to newcomers, visitors, and those seeking to learn more about Unitarian Universalists and Unity Church. The next class will be held Wednesday, November 5, from 7:10-8:30 p.m. Contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office to sign-up!

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

## Help Unity Church Become a Zero Carbon Congregation

Creating the energy for our lighting, computers, air-conditioning, etc., puts 642,345 pounds of harmful carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere each year. If we all pitch in, we can cut Unity's carbon footprint to zero by the end of this church year!

Simply take the Minnesota Energy Challenge: By participating in this Green Sanctuary Team sponsored initiative, you will reduce your own energy use — and:

- Save money in your home
- Improve your impact on the environment
- Make a measurable difference in the world

Taking the Minnesota Energy Challenge will also help Unity Church-Unitarian:

- Live out our values as a free and inclusive religious community encouraging lives of integrity, service, and joy
- Affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
- Make a positive impact as a visible leader in our neighborhood and beyond that acts in environmentally responsible and sustainable ways

Go to [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org) to take the Minnesota Energy Challenge or stop by the Green Sanctuary Team table in the Parish Hall.

**With your help, we can become a Zero Carbon Congregation by the end of this church year!**



## Learn Something New ~ Become a Mentor

Now is the time to become a volunteer mentor at Webster Magnet Elementary, a school on the move! Webster is located right across the street from Unity Church and is once again inviting volunteers from Unity Church to become mentors at the school as part of the St. Paul Council of Churches "Support Our Schools" project. Mentors at Webster volunteer one-half hour per week with the goal of developing a friendship with a 5th or 6th grade student who may benefit from another caring adult in his/her life. Mentors will determine which day of the week to meet with a mentee on a regular basis and will choose from the following blocks of time for their sessions: 8:35—9:05 a.m. or 12:45—2:15 p.m. New mentor training will be provided at the school on November 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fourteen mentors from Unity Church volunteered their time at Webster last year and this year's goal is to double that number.

Principal Lori Simon and the staff at Webster are in the process of creating an exciting and challenging new journey for its very diverse student body. Webster is not only reaching out to involve more community members but has recently chosen to change their magnet focus to a service-learning school. Service-learning connects what students learn academically with their very important place in the wider world and so each grade level at Webster has developed a creative service-learning project with outside community organizations. Webster is on the road to developing a stronger core curriculum in reading/literacy, math, and social studies and continues to offer English Language Learner (ELL) programs for the increasing number of students for which English is a second language. Webster has managed to keep class sizes small at 20-25 students in contrast to many other St. Paul public elementary schools that have much larger classes. They have instituted a notable intervention program for students with challenging emotional and behavioral concerns that has received metro-wide recognition. The school also features a student leadership program, a gifted/talented program and a strong arts program that includes public visual arts, a reader's theater, a band, and an African American Music Ensemble. This is definitely a school on the move. To become a part of these exciting new directions for Webster students, volunteer as a mentor by contacting Pat Haff at the Church Office.

## Ethical Dilemmas in International Social Justice

How do we empower not incapacitate? How do we partner not dictate? How do we serve and not patronize? On Sunday, November 2, at 12:15 p.m. in the Center Room at Unity Church, explore some of these significant international development questions with Joan and Segundo Velasquez, co-founders of Mano a Mano International, a non-governmental organization working in Bolivia. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.



### Whole Farm

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](http://wholefarmcoop.com) or 320-732-3023 by Wednesday November 12. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, November 19. Pay by sending a check, with the invoice enclosed with your order, to Whole Farm.



### Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. November 16 suggested items are canned tuna or meat, Hamburger Helper, rice, and dried beans - but all donations are welcome! Donations can be brought anytime and should be placed in the barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. All food is taken to Sharing Korner Food Shelf.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

## From the Partner Church Ministry Team All in a Partnership.....

Eighteen members of Unity Church made the trip to visit our partner church in Transylvania this past May. For many it was one of several return visits they have made to rural Romania. Why return to a small village in Eastern Europe again and again? We return to visit our friends in Homorod Szentpeter, whom we have grown to love, but we also return to acknowledge our Unitarian roots. Unitarianism, as a religion, can be traced back almost 500 years to Transylvania, then part of the Ottoman Empire.

The connection to this place, this village, is more than just historical. We call it a Partnership. The birth of that partnership in the early 1990's came in response to a call from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Many years of repressive communist rule that ended in 1989 had beaten down the Transylvanian Unitarian church. It was hoped that partnerships might encourage the renewal that was needed. Unitarian Universalist churches in America were partnered with Unitarian villages/churches in Transylvania. Unity Church was partnered with the small farming village of Homorod Szentpeter.

Five or six members of Unity Church kept up a loose correspondence with the village for almost 10 years, but they also worked to make it more than just a paper connection. Over the years, they raised money for a tractor to be bought for the village and scholarships for village children.

One or two Unity members traveled to the village over the years but not until 2000 was there a larger group of Unity members and our ministers making the trip. Out of that visit came the Partner Church Ministry Team.

The Partner Church Ministry Team is a group of 20 or more Unity Church members who work to build community with our Transylvanian partners. Our mission is three-fold. First, and most important, we work to create lasting relationships with the people of Homorod Szentpeter. Second, we work to educate our congregation about our Unitarian roots. And third, we sponsor events to raise money for our work.

Money raised by the Partner Church Ministry Team over the years has been spent to continue the scholarship program, to build a much needed parsonage (the place where village life is centered), to buy tiles to re-roof the church building that dates to 1526, to create a medical space so a doctor can visit the village once a week, to help villagers visit us in St Paul and see how American Unitarianism is different, and most recently it has been used to install central heating in the village school.

Sunday, November 23, is Thanksgiving Sunday and also Partner Church Sunday at Unity Church. The collection taken on that day goes to the work of the Partner Church team. Please be generous. Your contribution helps to create stronger partnership with our Transylvanian friends and the Unitarian heritage we share.

## Party with the Partner Church Ministry Team!

Save the Date! Saturday, January 24, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.

Parish Hall at Unity Church

Food, Fun & Frolic with the Partner Church Team. Tickets Go On Sale January 4!  
Never partied with the PCMT? Don't miss your chance!

If you would like to help plan the event, call Beverly Heydinger, 651-222-5305. Proceeds will support Unity's relationship with its partner church in Homorod Szentpeter, Romania.

From the Minnesota UU  
Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)

## Now What? Using this Moment to Build a Movement

On Election Day we will choose a new President of the United States. No matter who wins, change will come. MUUSJA invites you to a day of insight, learning, conversation and development as leaders.

Add your voice to this grass-roots "movement moment" in history. Help MUUSJA and your congregation build on new themes: Are progressive people of faith ready to lead and govern, not just protest and critique? How do we organize for the rising wave of change? Who will we work with and where might we be in 5, 10, even 20 years?

Our trainer, Beth Zemsky, specializes in multicultural organizational development, is U of M adjunct faculty in social movement theory, has been a Bush Leadership Fellow, and was founding Director of the U of M GLBT Programs Office. She recently co-authored the summer featured article for Social Policy. Beth brings energy, insight, 25 years of experience and excellent facilitation to this critical work.



**Join us!!**

Saturday, November 15, 2008  
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Unity Church—Unitarian  
732 Holly, St. Paul, MN 55104

Registration: \$20 in advance/\$10 student or low income; \$25 at the door. (Includes lunch and materials.)  
Coffee starts at 8:30 a.m.!

To register contact Marcy at 612-824-3240 or [mleussler@hotmail.com](mailto:mleussler@hotmail.com).



## R.E. Dates for your Family's Calendar

November 2 - Story Sunday (Workshop Rotation kids start in worship with parents) and start of "Being Human" Workshop Rotation unit.

November 9 - regular R.E.

November 16 - regular R.E.

November 23 - Family Sunday (all children preschool and up worship with the congregation) - Thanksgiving

November 30 - NO R.E. CLASSES (Thanksgiving Break)

## Youth Notes

### Serve It Up! For Junior High Teens

6th, 7th and 8th graders' Wednesday night activities this month include hearing from teens who traveled abroad with the Los Amigos program (November 5), baking in the kitchen (November 12) and meeting film makers and photographers that make a difference (November 19).

### OWL

What are HIV, PID, HPV, CDC, HSV-1, and AZT? The Our Whole Lives class is finding out! November's OWL curriculum teaches about healthy sexual relationships, responsible sexual behaviors, and sexually transmitted infections. Note the November 13 meeting for OWL parents!

### Tower Club

In October the youth group nourished the church in a variety of ways. Teens paired with elementary kids in the R.E. program and exchanged pen pal letters; we made care packages for last year's seniors who left home for college or work; we cooked the October 19th Soup Supper; and we helped Anna Newton with the landscaping at the Holly Avenue entrance (see photo below).



## Tower Club Christmas Tree Sale!

This holiday season, celebrate with locally-harvested "wild grown" trees and wreaths coming from Forest Stewardship Council-certified forests along Minnesota's North Shore! Proceeds benefit the Tower Club youth group.

Prepaid orders for the trees will be taken the first three weeks of November — find the table in the Parish Hall following each Sunday service. Pick up the trees at the church, starting the first Sunday in December.

### Balsam Tree Prices

\* Small (4-6 feet tall) \$35

\* Medium (7-9 feet) \$45

\* Large (10-12 feet) \$65

\* Grande (13-15 feet) \$95

Spruce or Pine trees are available in each size for an extra \$25



Decorated wreaths and holiday cookies will also be sold this December. Thanks for your support!

*The Cook County Sustainable Forestry Cooperative is selling wreaths and trees to Unity Church this holiday season to support their sustainable forestry work. The Coop is committed to practicing sustainable forestry which protects all native forest species. Member lands are certified by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy under Forest Stewardship Council standards, which are recognized internationally as the best standard in forestry. The wreaths and trees come from balsam firs that have been trimmed or thinned from members' forest land to reduce fire danger near their homes and cabins along Lake Superior's North Shore.*

## Christmas Pageant Planning

It's time to start planning for the Unity Church Christmas Pageant. An informational meeting will take place in November for all those interested in helping. There are many opportunities including: costume crew, coordinator of parent volunteers, light and sound assistants, administrative support, and prompter trainers. Watch "This Week at Unity" for a meeting date or contact Kelley Loughrey at [kelleyloughrey@comcast.net](mailto:kelleyloughrey@comcast.net) for more information.

## Share Your Sundays ~ Volunteer in R.E.!

There are many opportunities to spend time with the children and youth of Unity Church. The following roles need to be filled for classes beginning Sunday, November 2:

**9:00 a.m.:** Workshop Rotation: Drama

**11:00 a.m.:** Workshop Rotation: Art and Story, Spirit Play (ages 3-5), and Junior High

**4:30 p.m.:** Workshop Rotation, Spirit Play, Junior High, and Journey Guides

Please contact Kerri Meyer at the Church Office if you would like to share your gifts with the youth of our church.

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# AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

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**G**ratitude is a sentiment that we can nurture in our children with regular practice. Luckily, there's a good foundation in the hearts of children for thanks. Sofia Cavaletti, Montessori religious educator, asserts that "the prayer of children up to the age of seven or eight is almost exclusively prayer of thanksgiving and praise." How can we build on that instinctive relationship of gratitude that our kids have to the Source of Life? Here are some ideas:

## Mealtime Grace

Even simple words of thanksgiving make an impression at the family dinner table. Many families express gratitude for the earth that provides our food and the many hands that bring it to our plates. Our Wellspring Wednesday prayer is easy and meaningful. Let your child(ren) lead this prayer while the rest of the family echoes the words: "We give thanks for being / We give thanks for being here / We give thanks for being here together."

## Thank You Notes

Encourage the practice of writing notes for kind favors and gifts received.

## Family Gratitude Journal

Record small and big blessings in a journal or box throughout the year. Read the entries at Thanksgiving dinner.

## Beware of the Impostor: Guilt

Compelling our kids to be thankful for what they have because so many other children have not can cross the line from nurturing gratitude into cultivating guilt. Be careful. Engage your child in discussion about *why* we have ample food on our tables when so many families are hungry. Ask what we can do, out of our sense of gratitude, to change the unfairness in our world.

## Slow Down and Show Kids How to Smell the Roses

Model gratitude. If, witnessing the beauty of even a single red leaf on the sidewalk, you feel a surge of gratitude — *speak that sentiment aloud to your child*. Children absorb their parents' religious practices, and gratitude is indeed a practice.

## Kids' Literature - Gratitude

McCourt, Lisa. *The Most Thankful Thing*. (Grades K-4) A sweet, funny book about a daughter who tries to guess what her mom is most thankful for.

Nolan, Dennis. *Androcles and the Lion*. (Grades 4-6). A beautiful retelling of the Roman fable.

Rotner, Shelly. *Feeling Thankful*. (pre-K) A photo essay of children in moments of joyful thanksgiving.

Wood, Douglas. *The Secret of Giving Thanks*. (Grades K-4) A reflective narrative of a young girl experiencing gratitude.

## KIDS! Try this...

Making lists is fun!

List what things you feel thankful for...

The COLOR I'm most grateful for is

\_\_\_\_\_.

The TOY or GAME I'm most grateful for is

\_\_\_\_\_.

The FOOD I'm most grateful for is

\_\_\_\_\_.

TWO FRIENDS I'm most grateful for are

\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_.

The SEASON I'm most grateful for is

\_\_\_\_\_.

The MEMORY I'm most grateful for is

\_\_\_\_\_.

My TALENT that I'm most grateful for is

\_\_\_\_\_.

SOMETHING ELSE that I'm really, really grateful for is

\_\_\_\_\_.

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# MUSIC MINISTRY

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## Children's Musical Announcements

### Family Meeting

In the winter the Music Ministry at Unity Church sponsors an original musical acted and sung by the 5th and 6th graders in our church. This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Unity Church Children's Musical!

**Informal meeting for interested families: Sunday, November 16  
10:15-11:00 a.m. • Foote Room**

For questions, contact: Bob Utke at [baja\\_jack@hotmail.com](mailto:baja_jack@hotmail.com) or 612-759-7878, Rene Meyer-Grimberg at [rene.me@mac.com](mailto:rene.me@mac.com) or 651-298-9711, or Joyce Paxton at [jdpaxton@yahoo.com](mailto:jdpaxton@yahoo.com).

### Wanted: Choreographer

We are looking for an energetic, experienced and talented teacher who has a passion for the arts and working with children in a musical theatre setting. This person would create choreography for original music, work one on one and with groups of children to teach movement and support their creative efforts.

Duties also include assisting the drama and musical directors with teaching basic theatre/performance skills, drama games, improvisation, and blocking stage movement. Experience working with younger actors is very important. Knowledge of creative dance, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, modern, or tap is required. Experience in acting, directing, and technical aspects of theatre including set design and construction, costuming, make-up, lighting, and sound is helpful.

Please contact Joyce Paxton at 651-353-1428 with questions and interest.

***"The Beautiful offers us an invitation to order, coherence and unity. When these needs are met, the soul feels at home in the world."***

— John O'Donohue (from *Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*)

How often, it seems, that we need a way to express all that is in us and how we feel about all that is happening around us. Very often the community that music generates gives us that opportunity. Whether it is on an individual basis or through a large group; as one involved in presentation or recipient to the performance of others, there is opportunity to share and express through this wonderful Art that offers 'beauty, order, coherence and unity.' Below you will find invitations to various levels and types of participation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

— **Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry**

## Join Unity Choir

Unity Choir is a vital and energetic presence in our community. This gathering of volunteer singers works in groups from 20 to its full complement of some 65 members. Its members share various levels of musical experience and a wide variety of life journeys, all of which are brought together by their love of singing, music and community. Unity Choir is the strong component on which our music program is built. Their work can be found on our 2002, 2005 and 2008 Unity Music CDs, available in the Parish Hall bookstall.

If you have had experience singing and would love to join a community that works hard, enjoys laughing and socializing during break times, then Unity Choir is for you. Please contact Ruth Palmer if you are interested or have questions.

## Alto Auditions for the Women's Trio

You may have heard our Women's Trio sing several times last year. Elizabeth Longhurst, Mary Baremore and Cynthia Dodge joined forces to create this wonderful group. Well, Cynthia has moved which leaves a great need for a good alto. We are looking in particular for a low alto but would love to hear everyone interested. It is possible the group might expand into a quartet if the right combination presents itself. If you are interested, please contact Ruth Palmer at the Church Office.

## One Voice Commemorates the 20th Anniversary of World AIDS Day Many Lives, One Song: Hope for a World Beyond AIDS

One Voice & Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra  
Hopkins High School Auditorium • 2400 Lindbergh Dr., Minnetonka  
December 5 and 6, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Presented jointly by One Voice and the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, the concerts feature a wide range of musical styles, ranging from choral and orchestral to gospel and folk.

A centerpiece of the concert is the world-premiere performance of *By the Fireside* by Christopher Gable, a composition that explores connections between issues of AIDS in North America and Africa.

Education is a powerful theme of the concerts as well; community AIDS partners will host informational tables at the performances. Community AIDS partners include: The African American AIDS Task Force, The Aliveness Project, Bridge Builders 4 Life, Minnesota AIDS Project, and Rural AIDS Action Network.

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# PARISH HALL ART / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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## November Parish Hall Artist

"The Dolls"

Women who are homeless telling their own stories through art... a unique diversity experience.

In our society, homeless people don't have—aren't allowed to have—individual identities. They are "the homeless"—as if their housing situation was all you needed to know about them. "Identity theft" is not losing your checkbook and credit cards — it is being denied your humanity. Far more than lack of money is the lack of connection with others that distinguishes homeless people. Middle-class people are as cut off from their homeless neighbors as homeless people are from the rest of society. The non-profit arts organization, I Love a Parade, uses artistic experience to cut through prevailing stereotypes of "the homeless" in order to accurately depict people who are homeless as complex human beings, artists, and citizens. I Love a Parade employs women who are chronically homeless to create high quality art from recycled material and found objects.

In 2006, I Love a Parade hired eleven women who had experienced homelessness to embark upon the most exciting and the most difficult art adventure in their history. They created a traveling exhibit called "The Dolls: Women who have experienced homelessness telling their stories through art." Each woman was amazingly able to unwrap her life to show her story. All of the painful memories and feelings of uncertainty were transposed into joy, excitement and pride as each woman created her own doll. Every piece offers a distinctive message about a unique individual and her life's journey. Now, this remarkable art exhibit has been made into an equally remarkable book that cuts through myths, stereotypes and media images of homeless people. The best way to understand the reality of homeless people's lives is to get to know them. The second best way is to see this exhibit and read this book. "The Dolls" lets you smile and it lets you cry. It puts forth a new outlook of the homeless community in Twin Cities and delights the viewer with inventive and imaginative art.

Learn more at:  
[www.iloveaparade.org](http://www.iloveaparade.org)



At right: "Puppets with an Attitude"

## November 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, November 3 and 17 • 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 the 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

### Mother-Daughter Middle School Book Club

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the Month  
Contact: Millie Adelsheim, [millie@peapods.com](mailto:millie@peapods.com)

### 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

Tuesday, November 11 • 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, November 22 • 10:00 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 • 7:00 p.m.  
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

### Career Transitions Group

First and Third Thursday of the month • 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Contact: Wendy Frieze, [wendyfrieze@mac.com](mailto:wendyfrieze@mac.com)



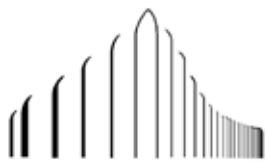
**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Saturday, November 22, 2008**

**Pancake Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.  
Meeting at 10:00 a.m.**

**Childcare will be available. All are welcome!  
See page 5 for details!**



**See page 8 for all the  
fun you don't want to miss!**



**UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN**

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JUSTIN SCHROEDER, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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