

Grace

The life of a congregation is a rich community tapestry of people, programs, ministries and worship. We lift up the patterns of this tapestry at Unity Church with the threads of monthly themes woven through our worship and programming. These themes deepen our understanding of our own faith and strengthen our bonds with one another in religious community. We explore each theme in worship and in our newsletter; in covenant groups, guided writing sessions and Wednesday evening programming; and in our community outreach ministries, our literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities. The November theme is Grace.

By Karen Hering

Few words have stirred as much theological debate and division over the centuries while still arriving in the current millennium as untarnished, as frequently and comfortably spoken and as difficult to define.

Depending on who you ask and when, grace might be equated with salvation or with sacraments, with the presence of God, or with beauty or life itself. Grace is resilience. Grace is forgiveness. It is sin's opposite. It is healing. It is revelation, the oneness of all being. It is enlightenment. It is light. It comes before faith. It comes after faith. Some say it is faith.

Mostly, it seems, what we know about grace is that it's largely a matter of not knowing.

One of my favorite confessions of Augustine's is about grace. "What is

grace?" he asked, right away admitting in a nearly palindromic puzzle, "I know until you ask me; when you ask me, I do not know." I concur. When I woke up this morning I knew exactly what to write about grace. It's when I got out of bed and put my fingers to the keyboard that things got a little difficult.

Perhaps this is as it should be. Grace, after all, begins with beyond. Grace shows up in the portal of not knowing.

When the heart is clenched tight, whether in anger or certitude, in fear or in grief, grace coaxes the fist open, looks into the palm and reads there a lifeline of a larger possibility.

Grace is an open hand, extended to the stranger, to the loved one, to the wounded one within. It is the open hand of relationship, of kindness, of blessing.

Grace moves. Grace heals. Grace dances. Grace is the sigh we release on the last note of a song or when the end of the poem becomes clear.

When a room is closed and stuffy, it is grace that opens the window and grace that then blows in.

"Grace fills empty spaces," wrote Simone Weil in her journal. "But it can only enter where there is a void to receive it, and it is grace itself which makes this void."

Grace can knock us off our feet when we stand on the shore looking out. Then it's grace that catches us before we are washed out to sea.

Grace is given, and grace is received. It cannot be stolen, even by the best of thieves.

Grace is an opening. Just when we think we know exactly what's going on, who we are, who everyone else is and what can and cannot happen next, grace draws back the bolt of our knowing, flings wide a new view.

Grace is the guest of humility. Rumi said it plainly but not unkindly:

*You are so weak. Give up to grace.
The ocean takes care of each wave
till it gets to shore.
You need more help than you know.*

Grace never comes to the fully self-sufficient. But then, which of us really are? Grace comes to each of us in turn and to all of us unmerited.

Grace points to the possibility of more. At the end of the sentence, at the bottom of the page, in the heart held wide open, there is always

more.

Grace Resources

BOOKS

Elizabeth and Hazel, by David Margolick, exploring the power and challenges of grace. A compelling account of the complex and still unfolding relationship between Elizabeth Eckford, one of the Little Rock Nine, and Hazel Bryan, a white student in Little Rock's Central High, whose images in a 1957 news photo came to represent the hatred and pain of that historic integration.

The Grace of Silence, by Michelle Norris, a memoir exploring Norris' own family stories to ask the question, "What's been more corrosive to the dialogue on race in America over the last half century or so – things said or unsaid?"

MOVIES

Babette's Feast, short story by Isak Dinesen and 1987 movie in which a mysterious Frenchwoman prepares a sumptuous feast for a gathering of religious ascetics, introducing them to the true essence of grace.

Amazing Grace, a musical and historical PBS documentary by Bill Moyers about the writing and longstanding influence of the song "Amazing Grace."

Glory, a 1989 feature film about the Civil War's first company of black soldiers serving in the federal army.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

He was the angry son of an angry father. His mother had died some years before. Neither he nor his dad had worked through the grief that magnified the troubles between them. When he dropped out of the doctoral program to travel the world his father was furious. He decided to walk the Camino de Santiago, the well-worn pilgrim way across the top of Spain. On the first day of his pilgrimage he lost his way in the Pyrenees. He fell and died alone along the trail. His father, resolute with grief and rage, flew to the South of France to claim the body. He arrived jet-lagged and rigid with exhaustion and yet, some inner wisdom broke through. He knew what he had to do. He had the body cremated and set off to scatter his sons ashes along the pilgrim way.

So begins a wonderful new film "The Way," written, produced and directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his real-life father Martin Sheen. Don't miss this film. At first the father walks alone nursing his bitterness and loss. But soon three unlikely pilgrims, three companions with seemingly nothing in common, force themselves into his solitude. It is a story about grief and gratitude and reconciliation. And it is a story about grace, the gifts that come, unbidden and unearned, that change our lives in ways we can't at first imagine.

Church can be an instrument for just such grace. What can we do when we come to the edge of all that we know? We Children of the Enlightenment have turned away from confession. We like to believe there's a technical solution for each and every problem. When we're stumped we look for experts, specialists who have the answers. But there are some problems that no one yet knows how to solve. No one really knows how to heal the wounds of racism. No one really knows how to close what Parker Palmer calls "the tragic gap," the growing disparity between rich and poor. And no one really knows how we will find our way from the place where we live now to the beloved community for which we constantly pray.

I confess and I invite you to join me in confessing that we need both a power beyond our own and the creative possibilities true companions bring if we are ever to find our way to love and justice. We need to confess our own impoverishment, seek new understanding and weave our lives together with the lives of the many neighbors we have yet to know. Our dear friend and colleague Wayne Arnason is so right when he writes in a benediction often repeated in our services—

*Take courage friends.
The way is often hard, the path is never clear,
and the stakes are very high.
Take courage.
For deep down, there is another truth:
you are not alone.*

See you in church along the pilgrim way,

Rob

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Rachel Long and Brian Chelberg
married October 15, 2011

Jill Grunewald and Charles Mack
married October 15, 2011

Regan Laurel Focht-Perlberg
born one more redeemer
September 28, 2011
to parents
Jessica and Paul Focht-Perlberg

Iris Eleanor Jannusch-Legas
born one more redeemer
October 9, 2011
to parents
Sarah Jannusch and Matt Legas

Mila Dorothy Mays
born one more redeemer
October 15, 2011
to parents
Jenn Bruber Mays and Burke Mays
and first grandchild of Brad Bruber

In Memoriam

Mark Allen Ross
September 11, 1956 –
September 10, 2011
brother of Cyndi Ross

Daylight Saving Time Ends

**Sunday, November 6
2:00 a.m.**

Set your clocks
back one hour.



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NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday Worship Calendar

Sunday worship 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 online at www.unityunitarian.org.

November 6: *Graceful Friends Along the Way*

— Rob Eller-Isaacs

The theological concept of grace has all but disappeared from our ranks. But when grace is understood as the unearned gift of life itself it seems grace should be at the very heart of our discourse. Rob and Worship Associate Dutton Foster will offer an overview of grace and take us on a graceful journey along the pilgrim way.

November 13: *Amazing Grace* — Janne Eller-Isaacs

Grace entered into the life of John Newton, a man whose livelihood was dependent on the slave trade. If grace can enter into someone such as he, then who are we to deny the existence of grace. Join Janne and Worship Associate Bob Steller for a service of stories with amazing grace.

November 20: *Thanks in Advance* — Rob Eller-Isaacs

At harvest time we take time to “rest in the grace of the world.” Wendell Berry’s words ring true when we realize the abundance that surrounds us. We practice gratitude all year around but Thanksgiving can renew our focus and energize our efforts. The whole church family will gather to give thanks and to celebrate and deepen our long-standing partnership with the Unitarian village of Homorodszentpeter.

November 27: *Grace without God* — Rachel Lonberg

In most of the Christian tradition, grace is something that God offers to humanity. Is God a necessary part of this equation? What can the Christian idea of grace offer Unitarian Universalists, even the humanists among us? Hallman Ministerial Intern Rachel Lonberg and Worship Associate Bailey Webster will explore how Unitarian Universalists can lead graceful and grace-filled lives.

A Wedding Reception!

On Sunday, November 6, we will celebrate the marriage of Rachel Long (Unity’s Hallman Intern) and Brian Chelberg. Following all three services, the ministers will lead a short blessing and cake will be served. Please join us in celebrating the beautiful newlyweds!

Black Friday at Church

*Feeding the Spirit on the Feast Day of Consumption
Deeper Thanks, Deeper Giving*

Friday, November 25 • 10:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.
Unity Church-Unitarian • Turn to page 7 for details.

Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to the chosen community non-profit recipient. **Please make checks payable to Unity Church.**

November 6 • Center for Victims of Torture

CVT exists to heal the wounds of government-sponsored torture of individuals, their families, and communities. They are based in the Twin Cities and have healing centers in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and in refugee camps around the world. Unity Church has supported CVT’s efforts to ban our government’s use of torture and has also provided coats, art supplies, meeting space, individual work with clients, massage therapy materials, money, and volunteer time gardening and painting the St. Paul Healing Center. As a congregation we’ve received the opportunity for spiritual growth as we’ve seen the triumph of the human spirit in the clients we have supported. <http://www.cvt.org/>

November 13 • Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

MACV is a non-profit dedicated to helping Minnesota veterans by providing assistance to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing some other life crisis. These programs support all veterans towards self-sufficiency in key areas of housing, employment and civil legal services. MACV addresses the gaps in services that the Veterans Association and other government agencies are unable to cover. Veteran John Blackstone is a supporter of MACV. <http://www.mac-v.org/>

November 20 • Partner Church Ministry Team

The intent of the Partner Church Ministry Team is to develop a mutually rewarding relationship between the Unity Church community and that of our sister church in Homorodszentpeter, Transylvania, in Romania. This year is the tenth anniversary of people traveling in pilgrimage to the village and this offering will be used to support villagers traveling to and from the United States. <http://www.unityunitarian.org/partner-church.html>

November 27 • Artability

The People Incorporated Artability program involves a summer-long series of art and writing workshops, culminating in a three-day show in October as a means of celebrating the creativity of people with mental illness and the contributions they make to society. People Incorporated was founded in 1969 to provide help and support for an underserved population of men and women living in halfway house and shelters in the Twin Cities. It is recognized throughout the state by the mental health community for its “first” in the delivery of state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind mental health services. Unity Church member Elias LaVelle nominated Artability. <http://www.peopleincorporated.org/get-involved/artability/>

UNITY CHURCH INTERNS / PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Rachel Lonberg: 2011-12 Hallman Ministerial Intern



My friend Lana serves as a Presbyterian minister in Dubuque. She is new to the area and eager to make friends. Recently, she met an acquaintance for coffee. Near the end of their conversation, he announced, "You sure do like to talk about grace. You must be Presbyterian."

Apparently, he knows a few other Presbyterians, all of whom mention grace at regular intervals.

Hearing Lana recount this conversation left me wondering about our Unitarian Universalist buzzwords and catchphrases. What do we say—other than 'I am a Unitarian Universalist'—that would make those who hear us know our religious identity? 'Interdependent web' and 'inherent worth and dignity?' Perhaps, 'integrity, service, and joy?'

I was also jealous to learn that Presbyterians seem to have cornered the market on grace, at least in eastern Iowa, as grace is one of my favorite theological concepts. (I have made a list. I would be happy to show you sometime.) Grace is the conviction that we live in a generous universe, that sometimes, things are better than we deserve.

Sometimes, the tree outside our window is breathtakingly beautiful. Sometimes, a song we love comes on the radio and turns a bad day into a not-so-bad one. Sometimes, we become close to people that we did not treat kindly at first meeting. I believe this is grace. I believe there are no cosmic tally sheets, making sure that the tree's beauty is proportionate to the kindness I show to acquaintances or the percentage of our castoffs that I recycle properly. This is not to say that good works are not important, but that the universe is too generous to be dependent on my actions. On days when my to-do list seems to grow by the minute, I take comfort in grace, knowing that even if my efforts come up short, the universe is generous and the trees will be beautiful.

Rachel Lonberg can be reached at the Church Office by email at rachel@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x129.

Jim Foti: 2011-12 Ministerial Intern



Seminarians often find themselves taking their show on the road, and this month I'll be spending four Sunday mornings at four different Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations. One of them is Unity Church; the other three are metro-area congregations that have invited me to preach. I love the opportunity to go play "church tourist" because, like any kind of travel, it feeds the head and the heart.

When I was a first-time visitor at the UU congregation in Fridley last winter, for example, I was checking out the place in advance of a preaching gig, and I hadn't realized that the monthly all-church potluck/cooking contest was right after the service. "Grab a plate," someone said. "Sit anywhere. People will talk to you." People did, and we ate, shared, and laughed for an hour and a half.

When I first visited First UU in Houston a few years back, I was surprised to be greeted at the door by the minister (something we're now trying at Unity). Moments later, the music director got the whole congregation to sing a rousing round, and we all exchanged Texas-sized greetings in the pews.

In both visits, I witnessed the love people had for their communities, discovered different ways of "doing church," and felt right at home.

I've learned a lot about varying worship practices and church cultures at UU conferences, in my classes, and on the Internet, but there's a lot to be said for seeing things with one's own eyes, and experiencing what it's like to be a visitor. As many folks at Unity Church know, a trip to another UU church, whether it's in Boston or Bloomington, can tickle your brain, furrow your brow, or make your heart soar. And, like a visit to another country, it gives context for understanding and appreciating the place we call home.

Jim Foti can be reached at the Church Office by email at jjim@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x212.

Pathway to Membership: A Series of Three Classes

Contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office (julieh@unityunitarian.org) to sign up for these classes.

Welcome to Unity is geared to newcomers and those seeking to learn more about Unitarian Universalists and Unity Church. November classes include Wednesday, November 9, from 7:10 – 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 20, from 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

Finding Yourself at Unity includes Unitarian Universalist and Unity Church history (including a tour of the church), opportunities to share parts of your religious journey, and discussion of the expectations and benefits of membership. The November series will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 8, and 15, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. and a light supper will be provided

Committing to Unity is designed for those who are ready to make the membership commitment. This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. The next class will be held on Saturday, December 3, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Unity Church will host Project Home in January 2012 SPLASH!

Periodically we are witness to the ripples radiating from the splash in a pool. Such a moment is upon us as our congregation moves forward with much needed renovations this spring. The basement will be under construction in May and Unity Church has been asked to host Project Home, the emergency shelter program for homeless families in Ramsey County, during January instead. We encourage all past and future volunteers to check January calendars and select a night to help host (or better yet, several nights!). Opportunities are also available to assist behind the scenes. The needs, and the rewards, are great:

- Evening hosts serve snacks and help entertain the children, overnight hosts serve breakfast.
- We especially need a volunteer coordinator with computer skills to manage our volunteer database and host calendar beginning in December.

Project Home team members will be available after services in December to register volunteer hosts and answer questions. Contact Anna Newton at 651-483-2986 or newtona@comcast.net for more information.

— Project Home Team

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAYS

A weeknight at church including dinner, worship, and learning. All are welcome.

6:00 p.m. Dinner: \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$20/family, and can be paid by cash or check.

6:45 p.m. Worship service in the Ames Chapel.

7:10 p.m. Programs follow worship. Childcare is available.

November 2

Dinner: To be announced.

November is Adoption Awareness month and Unity Church is hosting a series of adoption programs during Wellspring Wednesday. These programs are open to everyone, especially those who want to be a supportive presence in the life of an adoptive family.

Adoption Series Part 1

Facilitated by Elisabeth O'Toole, author of *In On It: What Adoptive Parents Would Like You To Know About Adoption*, this frank and friendly workshop will provide information about contemporary adoption and the adoption process itself, as well as insights into some of the common concerns and challenges of adoptive parents and adoptive families. Strategies for supporting adoptive parents and families — both during the adoption process and as established adoptive families — will be offered. Visit www.inonadoption.com for more information.



Civil Rights Series

with Bill Curtis

Bill Curtis is a Freedom Rider. Are you?

The Mississippi Freedom Rides registered a great many people to vote, to allow themselves to participate in the story of American Democracy. The repressive twin forces of poverty and racism had dissuaded so many from active engagement as citizens. The Freedom Rides freed them from that habit of isolation and brought forth new possibilities in the 1960s. They also liberated the Riders as well from the trappings of privilege and passivity. Come learn about what freedom meant then, about what freedom means now, and what it will mean in the future.

November 9

Dinner: Made-from-scratch macaroni and cheese, salad, vegetable, and dessert.

Adoption Series Part 2

Elisabeth O'Toole will return for a second workshop which will focus on the common experiences of adopted children including adoptive status and personal histories. This program will also examine how others — in schools, faith communities, and workplaces — can support adopted children. Strategies and suggestions for creating an “adoption-friendly” environment will be offered along with an explanation of how doing so benefits us all, regardless of our adoptive status or connection to adoption.

Civil War/Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

with Bill Curtis

Reflecting on her experience with the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman said, “I have freed thousands of thousands of slaves. And I could have freed more if they knew they were slaves.” Are there ways in which we do not know that we are enslaved? Are there ways in which we refuse to see this as a possibility? By way of popular films from *Mississippi Burning* to *The Matrix*, by way of the speeches of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, James Baldwin and Mario Cuomo, come learn about the possibilities of freedom in our time.

November 16

Dinner: To be announced.

Adoption Series Part 3

The third evening of the series will be led by Karen Henry Clark and will offer her family's adoption story and the story of her subsequent development and publication of *Sweet Moon Baby: An Adoption Tale*, an artist's and mother's perspective on adoption.



Introduction to Laughter Club

Join Katy Taylor to explore the art of laughter to invite more joy, play, and well-being into your life! Because of the deep pranayamic breathing exercises, this form of practice is also called Laughter Yoga, but it does not include any physical asanas and can be practiced by people of all ages who are willing to be a little bit silly. It was started in 1995 by a family physician in India and is now widely practiced in over 65 countries around the world. Medical research supports its physical and emotional health-giving effects. Children with parents are welcome!

More WW on page 9! →

Wellspring Wednesday Ongoing Offerings

Yoga • Weekly, \$10 per class or \$50/6 classes • Linda Imbertson will cover the different disciplines and techniques of yoga including learning how to move your body while you center your mind and open your spirit.

Tween Youth Group (grades 4-8)

Weekly, all are welcome!

Our Whole Lives

Weekly, registration required

UU Families Dinner Table Talk

Monthly, watch for details.

Childcare/Children's Programming

Weekly, childcare check-in is in the Parish Hall. Free.

WELLSPRING WEDNESDAYS / CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Wellspring Wednesday Continued...

November 23: Happy Thanksgiving
No Wellspring Wednesday

November 30

Dinner: To be announced.

Family "Late Night" at Jazz Club Unity

Let's imagine that the coolest jazz musicians around were gigging right here in St. Paul and free tickets were still available! All of the pieces were in place except one—the jazz show started at 9:30 p.m.! Bummer... BUT WAIT! The music is happening at Jazz Club Unity! If you are a responsible parent who can no longer make the late-night, bebop scene or a young adult who needs a reasonable amount of sleep, then Family "Late Night" at Jazz Club Unity is just the thing for you. Come join us as we turn the clocks forward at the end of the Wellspring Wednesday meal and pretend that we are all out for some great late-night fun!

The Great College Search with Craig Allen

This is a follow-up session for the three-part series that took place from September 21 to October 5.

WW Save the Date!

Brave Souls & Dreamers

Once Voice Mixed Chorus

December 7, 2011, marks the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. To honor this anniversary, members of One Voice Mixed Chorus are coming to Wellspring Wednesday to share their insights about "Brave Souls & Dreamers" a cantata that draws on inspirational words from Gandhi, Jesus, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Isaiah, Confucius and Buddha. The text boldly contrasts a prevailing hope for peace with the realities of war. Come and join Jane Ramseyer Miller, the artistic director of One Voice Mixed Chorus, in a wonderful exploration of a piece of music that honors peace at this moment in time.

Black Friday at Church

Feeding the Spirit on the Feast Day of Consumption: Deeper Thanks, Deeper Giving

Friday, November 25 • 10:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.
Unity Church-Unitarian

Unity Church's fourth annual "Black Friday at Unity Church" offers an opportunity to launch the Advent and Christmas season with spiritual renewal, fellowship, and good cheer, instead of habitual consumerism. Sometimes called "the holiest of shopping days," Black Friday is no longer just a feast day of consumption. This year we explore meanings of gratitude and giving with our theme *Deeper Thanks, Deeper Giving*; musical guests *Light of the Moon*; and special guest speaker Dane Smith, a member of Unity Church and president of Growth & Justice, a progressive think tank committed to making Minnesota's economy simultaneously more prosperous and fair.

Join fellow Unity Church members, families, and neighbors on the Friday morning after Thanksgiving (known as Black Friday in the consumer world) in a worship service featuring cultural critique, spiritual depth, conversation, children's participation, wonderful music, and some fun. After the service, we'll share fellowship, warm drinks and conversation in the Parish Hall and, for those who would like, an opportunity to join in a reflective conversation about the service, what Advent might look like from a UU perspective, the opportunities to be found in the Christmas season, and how we might make changes in our own lives. Activities for children and families, and child care will be provided.

We invite you to share your thoughts in advance of the service so that we may include some of them in the Collage of Voices in the service. If the the Black Friday theme evokes a response, if the words *Deeper Thanks, Deeper Giving* remind you of a time when you were moved to a new or deeper kind of gratitude in your life, or a renewed understanding of what it means to give, please share your thoughts in writing with us. E-mail your writing to Laura Schlatter at laurasueschlatter@gmail.com by November 11, 2011.

2011 Unity Men's Retreat



All men of Unity Church are invited to this year's Unity Men's retreat on Saturday, December 3. The retreat, "Building a Nurturing Community," will be held at Unity Church starting with a pancake breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and concluding with a plenary session ending at 8:00 p.m.

The schedule will include hands-on workshops and presentations telling the stories of our individual spiritual journeys, celebrating the power of music in our lives, and other topics which we hope will draw you in and fill you up. Come build new friendships and deepen old relationships as we connect intra- and inter-generationally with other Unitarian Universalist men.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the retreat, contact Steve Harper by email at Steve.Harper@alumni.macalester.edu or by phone at 651-324-4843.

Save the Date! The Gathering

Fourth Annual Unity Church Women's Retreat

Saturday, January 28, 2012

The Gathering is a one-day women's spiritual retreat celebrating each woman's voice with invitations for expression and being heard, and for deep listening through art, movement, writing, conversation, and contemplation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / UNITY TOMORROW

Board of Trustees

from Tim Thoreen, Trustee

We are about to spend millions of dollars in hopes of a better future for our church. Yikes! The prospect of such an ambitious endeavor has undoubtedly been the source of many restless nights for those involved in the Unity Tomorrow Capital Campaign. As members of Unity Church, risk is involved for all of us. As a Board of Trustees, we have sought to find ways to reduce our collective risk as we go down this path. For instance, last spring we established the requirement that we limit debt on this project to the cost of short-term construction financing. We have chosen to not risk our long-term fiscal stability for implementation of the Unity Tomorrow vision.

More recently, we have expressed our interest in limiting risk through a "Construction Manager at Risk" (CM) approach to completing our project. Sometimes abbreviated as "CM at Risk," this method of construction allows us to select a qualified builder who is integrated into the design phase of our project. Immediately upon selection, the Construction Manager will begin working with our architect (Miller Dunwiddie) as part of the project team during our preconstruction phase (which is ongoing and will last through April 2012). During the preconstruction phase, the CM at Risk is able to provide constructive solutions that are cost effective, will be less disruptive to our ongoing activity during construction, and provide for better long-term maintenance of the final building.

Perhaps most importantly from a risk management perspective, the Construction Manager will develop a "Guaranteed Maximum Price" or GMP. Once set, the GMP represents the maximum amount our project will cost. In effect, we transfer the risk of cost escalation to our Construction Manager. We will not pay for any costs that go over the GMP.

I represented the Board of Trustees during our selection of the General Contractor. I am happy to report that we received a tremendous amount of interest in our project; seven proposals were submitted representing some of the best known contractors, not only in Saint Paul or Minnesota, but in the country. Our selection team reviewed the proposals in early October, established the important criteria to evaluate the contractor's proposals, and identified (unanimously) the three best proposals. Those three contractors were asked to participate in interviews. Prior to the interview, we formalized the evaluation criteria and weighted them to represent the values and concerns of Unity. I am happy to report that the two most important criteria in this weighting were the contractor's "Active Minority Hiring Program" and their "Sustainability Practices." Unity Church has articulated these areas of concern in our Ends Statements. Accordingly, these two criteria represented over one-third of the contractor selection decision.

On the afternoon of October 18 we interviewed our short list of three contractors. Their presentations confirmed that we had very well qualified firms competing for our project. While it was a tough choice, our decision to select McGough Construction as our Construction Manager has marked an exciting new phase of the *Unity Tomorrow* effort. We have an excellent team in place and we are now prepared to make our vision a reality.

More information about Unity Tomorrow will be delivered in a separate newsletter. Please watch your mail for pledge and commitment cards as well as project and process details.

Unity Tomorrow: It Takes a Community

from Kit Brady, Capital Campaign Team

Thank you to everyone who has given to this year's operating pledge drive and capital campaign. For those who attended one of the events in October, we hope that you not only had a good time, but that we helped to broaden the circle of people you know at Unity Church. For those who had a personal visit, thank you for letting us come into your home to talk about this church, what it means to you, and that sometimes sensitive topic – money. And if you only heard the messages from the lectern on Sundays, thank you for letting us interrupt the service and tell you why it's important that you give to both of these campaigns. It was never meant to be about the amount you had to give, but the sincere hope that everyone would give generously within their means to both campaigns.

We tried to have some fun, build community, and make some of the dreams we have for the future of this church come true. If you have not yet given to both campaigns, there is still time. Forms were mailed if they were not picked up at church or an event. These can be returned to Unity Church, or you may make your operating pledge and capital campaign commitment online at www.unityunitarian.org. And if you thought you had to be rich to give to the capital campaign, please know that every gift in any amount matters and makes a difference. Truly, when it comes to taking care of our church now and for the next generation, *it takes a community.*



Unity Church–Unitarian

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Pancake Breakfast • 8:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting • 10:00 a.m.

Unity Church will hold its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Saturday, November 19, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary following a pancake breakfast (beginning at 8:30 a.m.) hosted by the Board of Trustees. Childcare will be provided. At this meeting, the Board will:

- call for a vote on the *Unity Tomorrow* process
- call for a vote to ordain Leon Dunkley
- report to the congregation and present the operating budget for 2012
- ask the congregation to elect three new trustees

Details and an agenda will be mailed to eligible voting members. Eligible voting members include those who have signed the membership book and have made an identifiable pledge and a payment on that pledge during the 2011 fiscal year. For information on your voting status, please contact Barbara Hubbard by email at barbarah@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x116. All annual meeting information including the annual report, budget information, trustee nominee bios and photos, and meeting agenda will be available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

Please join us — first for pancakes and then for some time to reflect on the work of the church! ***All are welcome!***

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Ongoing Groups

Open to everyone.

Please contact the person listed for more information or contact the Church Office by phone at 651-228-1456 or by email at unity@unityunitarian.org

A New Look at the Bible: Second Thursday of the month (November 10) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Afterthoughts: Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Caregivers Group: An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (November 17) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Evergreen Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month (November 8) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (November 26) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

Grandparent Unitots!: A playgroup for grandparents and their grandkids. Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Ona Lentz at 651-222-8117

Job Transition/Networking: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact Linda LaBarre, Facilitator, at lindaleelabarre@gmail.com

Lectio Divina or Spiritual Reading: Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Living With Grief Group: A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (November 15) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at janne@unityunitarian.org

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, November 7 and 21, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

Unitots!: A playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. On November 8, they will discuss *Borrowed Time* by Robert Goddard

Unity Bridge Club: First Friday of the month (November 4) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209

Unity Singles: Watch for announcements in *This Week at Unity*. Contact: Bonnie Reiland at bonniereiland@aol.com

Zen Meditation: Find renewal and grounding in the practice of Zen meditation. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Contact Ken Ford at kford5@comcast.net

Standing Up For Human Rights: Film Series

Thursday, November 10 • 7:00 • Foote Room

This film series features documentaries and dramas about the world's most challenging issues and the people who have stood up to make a difference. Each screening is followed by a discussion with experts on the subject addressed in the film. On November 10, Unity Church will show a film called *Lord of War* in which an arms dealer confronts the morality of his work. Weapons trafficking is a cornerstone of our understanding of conflict and war. Join us and a representative from Amnesty International for what promises to be a challenging conversation.

Extended Zazen

Saturday, November 12 • 10:00 a.m.-noon • Ames Chapel

The Unity Sangha meditation group will be hosting a two-hour meditation period on November 12 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Twenty-minute periods of sitting meditation will be separated by periods of walking meditation and a short break. Some previous experience with meditation is recommended. No registration is required, although there is a suggested donation of \$5.00 that will go towards future purchases of meditation cushions and mats. You can arrive 10 minutes early if you want additional details and instruction on the meditation routine.

2011 Thanksgiving Gatherings

Thanksgiving is a time for families and friends to gather to celebrate the harvest and cook and converse! It is also a perfect time to open our hearts and homes to new friends. If you are among those without family nearby and would like to join other Unity Church members for Thanksgiving, or if you have extra space at your table and would like to host a Unity Church guest or two, please come to the sign-up table in the Parish Hall after services on November 13 and 20, or contact Anna Newton at newtona@comcast.net or 651-483-2986.

Elders' Circle Group

Tuesday, November 15 • 1:00-2:30 p.m.

The Elders' Circle is a group of church elders (self-identified) who convene monthly for fellowship, reflection, and fun. For more information, or to coordinate transportation, contact Ministerial Intern Jim Foti by e-mail at jim@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x212. Refreshments will be served.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Facilitators Welcomed

Help create this contemplative, family-friendly, participatory, Celtic-inspired ritual to mark the turning of the year as the darkness gives way to the growing light. If you would like to participate as a ritual leader or in a facilitating capacity (greeter, set-up, etc.) for this December 21 ritual, please contact Katy at katy@thewingedheart.com or 651-291-8551.

LITERARY MINISTRY / LIBRARIES AND BOOKSTALL

Writing and Reading As Spiritual Practice

OPEN PAGE: reflecting with pens in hand

These guided writing sessions, led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, are invitations to the creative spirit, opportunities to correspond with "the still, small voice within." No writing experience necessary; only an empty page and an open heart and mind. Check individual listings for location, pre-registration requirements and registration fees.

Reflection Topic: Grace

Sunday, November 6 • 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Unity Church • Free

"What is grace?" Augustine asked and then confessed: "I know until you ask me; when you ask me, I do not know." Join us for an exploration of grace – the breath of new possibilities that sometimes seems as evasive as it is ever present. The session is free and open to all. Registration not required, but an e-mail to karen@unityunitarian.org is requested to help in planning space and handouts.

Sacred Time, Sacred Space

Thursday, December 1 • At moonrise, 12:04-2:30 p.m.

Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, 1890 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul

Registration and fee information at: www.wisdomwayscenter.org

A day of rest can be hard to come by. But an empty day, like an empty page, can open sacred and creative possibilities. "All creation springs from emptiness," says writer Wayne Muller. Before the rapid holiday pace picks up, this midday writing session reflects on the gift of Sabbath rest and other sacred time and space.

LECTIO DIVINA: holy reading

Every Sunday • 10:15-10:45 a.m., between worship services • Ames Chapel

Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it "spiritual reading." Others following a sixth century Benedictine practice call it "*lectio divina*" or holy reading. Both names describe a reflective practice of meditating on the written word and listening for "what is found there" by each reader and listener. No experience or registration is necessary. Join us for a quiet, facilitated practice of reflecting on a particular poem on the month's worship theme.

Rocked by the Infinite: held by wondrous love

Celebrating the Sacred Circle of Life with Poetry, Prayer, and Song

Tuesday, November 1 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul

Registration not required. For information: 651-696-2788

Led by Karen Hering, Ruth MacKenzie and Barbara Lund

Many religions and cultures regard November 1 as a time when the veil between the living and the dead grows thin. All Saints Day, All Hallow's Eve and the Days of the Dead each encourage the living to welcome back – in memory, spirit and love – those who have died. We will gather, in ritual and celebration, to tenderly acknowledge the fragility of life and the comfort of being "rocked by the Infinite," as poet Stanley Kunitz put it. We'll name and light candles for our losses – the loved ones present in spirit as well as the people, places and species we are losing in the planet's ecological decline. <http://wisdomwayscenter.org/rockedbytheinfinite.html>

Other Programming and Resources

For more information about the *Faithful Words* literary ministry and additional writing programs offered in other locations, visit www.unityunitarian.org/literary-ministry.html. To receive periodic e-mail notifications of upcoming literary programs at Unity Church and elsewhere, contact Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org. *Faithful Words* programs are supported by a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism and contributions from individual donors.



What's New in the Library and Bookstall

from Janice Gestner and Shelley Butler

Giving a child a strong foundation — a home, a family to love, and a safe place to grow — is one of life's greatest and most generous gifts.

— Barack Obama

Currently, there are 107,000 children and youth in the U.S. foster care system, waiting to find families who will adopt them. 400 of those are in Minnesota. Each November, National Adoption Month is observed to raise awareness about the adoption of children from the foster care system. Most of us at Unity Church have some experience around adoption. We may have friends, family, or know people in our community who are or have adopted; we may teach, or provide health or child care for children who are adopted. However adoption touches us, we are all "in on it."

The Library and Bookstall proudly support the "Welcoming Others Into Adoption" series led by Elisabeth O'Toole, author of *In On It: What Adoptive Parents Would Like You To Know About Adoption* and Karen Henry Clark, author of *Sweet Moon Baby: An Adoption Tale*. More information on page 8. Find both books for sale in The Bookstall, along with *The Ten Basic Principles of Good Parenting* by Laurence Steinberg, the basis for the parenting series recently presented by Dr. Marty Rossman, Professor Emeritus, Family Education at the University of Minnesota.

Look for a dozen or more stories for children about adoption in the Whitman Children's Library "Family" section, including *Sweet Moon Baby* and *Happy Adoption Day!* Find *In On It* and other books on adoption for adults in the Anderson Library.

More adoption information is available at: www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/name/ and www.mnadopt.org/

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

UUSC Update

Welcoming a Guest at Your Table!

The focus of *Guest at Your Table* is on philanthropy!

Discussions at your table about the meaning of that word could be interesting. These definitions have been heard: "Something everyone can do." "A generous heart." "Giving money away." "A study of insects." "Showing love." "A tingly feeling inside." "Such a joy." "Collecting stamps." "Giving and receiving at the same time." "A desire to help people." "Something to do with art."

Let the conversation begin. What will happen when you say, "Philanthropy is..."

Guest at Your Table is the annual UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) financial campaign to support UUSC work such as:

- Environmental justice in Kenya
- Democracy and tolerance in Egypt
- Workers' rights in Arkansas
- Safety and well being in Haiti

On Sunday, November 13, all members of the congregation will be given a *Guest at Your Table* box, a book of stories about UUSC partners who are this year's guests, and a table mat (designed by Unity's Junior High youth) to facilitate conversation about philanthropy. Putting coins into the box is a tangible way to address human need (acting philanthropically). **You'll be asked to return the box on or before December 11.**

Your philanthropy ("goodwill to fellow people") can foster understanding and awareness of UUSC's human rights work. Use *Guest at Your Table* to think about what it takes to be a good friend. Have fun and be creative: think about access to water, and give according to the number of faucets in your home; give an amount equal to paying for a meal for a girl in a camp in Haiti; think about paying for printing one comic book to tell Egyptians how to vote; put in a coin for all the things you're thankful for; contribute one hour of minimum wage; or simply dump into the box coins found in the sofa or pockets at the end of the day!

The *Guest at Your Table* boxes may be used to join UUSC. If you're interested in membership, complete the information on the side of the *Guest at Your Table* box. This organization nurtures values of justice, equity and compassion in human relations. It seems to be worthy of your philanthropy.



Rainbow Chalice Alliance Investiture

The Interweave Ministry team recently acquired a new name, the Rainbow Chalice Alliance, in anticipation of their investiture as a new Community Outreach Ministry Team. This team leads the Unity Church community in expanding and deepening its welcome and support of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer people and allies

The investiture will take place on Sunday, November 13, during all three services and is an opportunity for the congregation to meet team members and lend support to the work of the team. This team is currently focused on addressing bullying and harassment issues of GLBTQ youth in schools and community settings. Their community partners are Minnesota School Outreach Coalition and St. Paul Out for Equity program.

For more information about this team please contact Pat Haff by email at pat@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x126.

Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. Donations can be brought anytime and should be placed in the barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. Suggested items for November 20: canned tuna or meat, Hamburger Helper, rice, and dried beans.



Whole Farm Coop



Buy meat, cheese, produce and more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up at Unity Church! Order from www.wholefarmcoop.com or call 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, November 9. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, November 16.

Project Homeless Connect

Monday, December 12

Project Homeless Connect pairs volunteers with homeless individuals in an effort to help those in transition access specific services. Many volunteers are needed and training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering for Project Homeless Connect, please contact Priscilla Morton at prismorton@comcast.net or 651-766-8375.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Partner Church Sunday is November 20! Email Message from Transylvania

Dear Unity Church Congregation,
I'm happy to let you know that we have purchased the van!

It's a nice blue Opel Vivaro made in 2006. It had been previously used by a foundation for orphaned young adults in Lokod.

We, the Homorodszentpeter congregation, bought the van with the money you gave us from the November 2010 offering. Thank you so much. Your donation was matched by the Woudkapel church which afforded us the 8200 Euros to purchase it.

The main idea is that a civil institution, us, purchases a van, and we use it for social purposes, such as: taking the ill to the hospital, taking the youth to educational activities, driving the seniors to different places, helping a family to move in an urgent situation, and if there is funeral in another village, we drive the family to the service.

School will start soon, everybody is anxious to be ready.

There is good news in that there are a few babies born in the village and two young couples have been married.

It is also good news that a new company will buy the Dairy. Our farmers have hope that they will be paid for their milk and receive their wages which has not happened for the last two years. This will hopefully happen before Christmas.

It is also good news that probably before the winter season we'll have the sewage system in place.

I hope all is well with you.
Much love, Reverend Kinga Reka

The new van!



Annual Winter Warm-Up Drive

The Restorative Justice Ministry Team is assisting their community partner, Amicus, in providing men and some women coming out of prison with basic needs.

How You Can Help



Top needs: winter coats, hats, gloves, boots, deodorant, tooth paste, hand lotion

Other important needs: scarves, soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, washcloths, socks

A tote, duffel bag or backpack is useful to carry items, as many of the clients spend a good deal of time on the street. Clothing items that are new and in good condition (clean with no holes, tears or stains) and new, unopened hygiene items are requested.

Monetary donations for public transportation are also greatly needed.

Help provide these items this approaching winter season and send the message that someone cares and wants them to succeed in their efforts to find a second chance. Contact Amicus at 612-348-8570 for more information on this unique opportunity to make a difference. Donations should be brought to Unity Church and put in Pat Haff's office.

Are you ready for a trip to Bolivia?

Are you ready for a truly memorable pilgrimage? Join a group from Unity as we travel south to learn first-hand about the work of Mano a Mano, a volunteer organization co-founded by Unity Church members!

Dedicated to improving health and well-being in very low-income communities, Mano a Mano International Partners has built 124 clinics, serving more than 700,000 of Bolivia's poorest citizens. In addition, Mano a Mano builds schools, roads, and water reservoirs, all in respectful partnership with local residents.

Join us as we visit clinics and schools in poor urban barrios and remote rural areas, travel on roads that Mano a Mano has carved into mountainsides, and tour water projects that help farm families increase their meager incomes. Guided by Mano a Mano founder Segundo Velasquez and Patricia Ohmans, leader of seven previous trips to Bolivia, this pilgrimage to one of South America's most fascinating countries will challenge and inspire you.

It will show you how resilient people overcome adversity, working together to strengthen health and economic opportunity.

It will deepen your understanding of generosity, service and joy.

It may even change you for life.

This 9-day trip takes place from March 23 to March 31, 2012. If you are interested in learning more about the trip, plan to attend one of these 45-minute information sessions at Unity Church.

- Sunday, November 13, after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services
- Sunday, November 20, at 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 11, after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services
- Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.

If you can't make it to any of these, but want more information, contact Patricia at patricia.ohmans@gmail.com or 651-757-5970.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH



UUSC Welcoming a Guest at Your Table!

Details on page 12.

Monthly New Family Orientation

Wednesday, November 2 • 7:10 p.m.

Considering Unity as a possible church home for your family? Interested in enrolling your children in our Religious Education program? Please join us for our monthly orientation and registration session, at which you'll learn all about the theology and policies that are the foundation for our Ministry with Children and Youth. Childcare provided.

Tween Youth Group Meets Wednesdays!

Our 4th - 8th graders hang out together at church during Wellspring Wednesday. November 2 and 16, they'll be working with the Unity Rainbow Chalice Alliance to create some art that advocates for marriage equality. On November 9, they'll be baking treats for use in Pastoral Care visits. Join us from 7:10 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Kids in Grades 3-6: Become a Chalice Lighter!

Did you know that the children who serve as part of our worship teams have participated in a special program in which they learn the meaning and history of the Flaming Chalice as a symbol of our faith? If your child would like to become a Chalice Lighter, please sign up for our Fall 2011 session. Chalice Lighters is a two-part parent-child learning experience that takes place on two Friday evenings, dinner included. New Chalice Lighters are invested in a special ritual in the Sanctuary.



This Fall's dates are:

- Session One: Friday, November 11 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Session Two: Friday, November 18 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
(optional sleepover at church!)
- Investiture: Sunday, November 20, all three services

Contact Kerri at 651-228-1456 x104 or kerri@unityunitarian.org to sign up you and your child for this exciting and meaningful program!

Teachers' Night Out

Friday, November 18 • 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Are you teaching in the 2011-12 Religious Education program? Take advantage of our monthly "thank you" for teachers: a night of free childcare. Contact Christy Randall at christy@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x127 to sign up.

Sunday, November 20 is a Family Sunday!

All children and youth will worship together with our family of families in the Sanctuary at all three services. Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers. There are no Religious Education classes on November 20.

No Religious Education Classes on Sunday, November 27

Activities will be provided for kids in attendance at all three services. Visiting grandkids and cousins are welcome!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

from Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry

"A person's life purpose is nothing more than to rediscover, through the detours of art, or love, or passionate work, those one or two images in the presence of which the heart first opened." — Albert Camus



It always strikes me as such a dichotomy that autumn, the entrance into final closure and rest from the physical world's growing season, is, at the same time, the moment of greatest movement and gathering of creative energy in the musical programming season. I am always so thrilled to see again all those wonderful people with whom I work and to welcome new members into our community. At the same time, I am so aware of preparing to "dig in" as we approach our winter season ahead. This tension of "closing in" and "reaching out" excites in me the process of looking deeply at the essential gift of our work together without regard to "where" or "when." Most specifically, it makes me think and look for "what" and "how" we share in the work we do together. It makes me look for the moments of silent reflection and depth that come from the sound that has been formed into tendrils of artistic reaching into the heart.

I find in music, even pieces I return to over and over again, that there is never a final answer. Always, there is another perspective, another possibility, idea, and way of releasing every note. Always, even in different approaches, there is the reward of an absolute beauty after the struggle to find the way through. These detours of discovery are often so painfully frustrating and full of the sense that it will never be "worked out." However, and finally from long experience, I do know in my middle that there will be a solution and, if I work honestly, it will reach its potential and inherent beauty. What a gift to share in these challenges, in this work, in this community. As I work with the choirs and each note is carved out, often with difficulty, it is a constant marvel to me that we are all so willing to go through the "tough stuff" because we do know the result ahead, we do the beauty, we do know "the heart opens."

Yes, the highest things are beyond words. That is probably why all art aspires to the condition of wordlessness. When literature works on you, it does so in silence, in your dreams, in your workless moments. Good words enter you and become moods, become the quiet fabric of your being. Like music, like painting, literature, too, wants to transcend its primary condition and become something higher. Art wants to move into silence, into the emotional and spiritual conditions of the world. Statues become melodies, melodies become yearning, yearnings become actions. — Ben Okri (from the book *A Way of Being Free*)

Calling All Singers

This involves all of you interested in singing in the Carmina Singers, Walk-In Choir and Women's Ensemble. The schedule has been worked out and combined so that all of you can sing... together! Let's create a wonderful group of singers that can bring more music into our services. We particularly need the contribution of wonderful choral music in the 4:30 p.m. services in December. Please consider committing to and joining together for this limited time. Contact Ruth Palmer with any questions at 651-228-1456 x118 or ruth@unityunitarian.org

Rehearsals

Sunday, October 30 and November 13 • 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. • Robbins Parlor
Sunday, December 4, 11 and 18 • 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

Performances

Sunday, December 4, 11 and 18 • 4:30 p.m. service

Parish Hall Artist

November

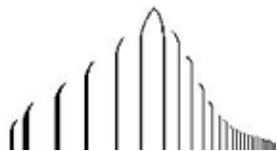
November is the month when Unity's New Orleans Pilgrims will go on their journey south. The art in the Parish Hall this month will reveal aspects of the unique city and culture of New Orleans, in various mediums, by eight Twin Cities artists.

Daniel Beer: photography
Matt Brown: painting
Martha Eaves: fiber art
Jenny Jenkins: photography
Stuart Klipper: photography
Zannah Martin: fiber art
Lia Rivamonte: painting
Shelley Rohlf: painting

One Voice Mixed Chorus A Season of Social Change and Community-Building!

The One Voice Mixed Chorus 2011-2012 season opens with *Brave Souls and Dreamers*. An inspirational concert celebrating the lives of visionary leaders who have challenged prejudice and violence: Harvey Milk, Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa, Judy Shepard and more. Featuring music by Bob Dylan, Holly Near, Stephen Sondheim and the premiere of *BraveSouls and Dreamers*, arranged especially for One Voice and inspired by the words of peacemakers from around the globe! Directed by Jane Ramseyer Miller—fresh from her year-long sabbatical—the concert is performed as part of our annual community outreach tour November 18-20, 2011, in St. Francis and Duluth, and in the Twin Cities on January 21 and 22, 2012, at Hopkins High School Auditorium in Minnetonka.

More information is available at www.ovmc.org.



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**



Kids in Grades 3-6: Become a Chalice Lighter!

Turn to page 14.



Resorative Justice Ministry Team

Annual Winter Warm-Up Drive

Turn to page 13.



Unity Men's Retreat

Saturday, December 3

Turn to page 7.

Unity Church—Unitarian Annual Meeting of the Congregation November 19, 2011

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

Turn to page 9.

Lectio Divina or Spiritual Reading

Have you ever left the service and yearned for a quiet and supportive environment in which to think about the service and meditate on the theme of the service? Have you ever wanted to hear one of the readings over again? If so, you are invited to drop in and experience a practice that will be offered each week between morning services in the Ames Chapel.

The experience is called Lectio Divina or Spiritual Reading. Lectio Divina is a practice of several people reading the same piece of world scripture or poetry several times, inviting the participants to meditate on the words spoken and having done so, to find deeper meaning in the words. It is a simple format but one that has been practiced through the centuries. Many of our religious ancestors in New England adopted this practice as a way to deepen their understanding of a reading or a piece of world scripture.

Participants do not need to sign up or reserve a spot. You are invited to come and experience this whenever you can. Newcomers to the congregation are especially welcome. If you have questions please contact Janne Eller-Isaacs by email at janne@unityunitarian.org or Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org.



Thanksgiving Gatherings

Be a guest.

Welcome a guest.

Turn to page 10.