

Forgiveness

Each month worship, religious education, 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. October's theme is...Forgiveness.

Holding a grudge can make you sick. It's said that forgiveness is good for the soul. But forgiveness isn't simple. All too easily forgiveness can become a mask for denial. When one forgives or is forgiven too easily, with no process in place for confrontation and reparations, what Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the 20th century German theologian and martyr called "cheap grace" comes into the equation. "Cheap grace," he wrote, "is preaching forgiveness without requiring repentance...."

Forgiveness has both personal and public dimensions. Personal forgiveness begins with insight. It begins when one becomes aware of the way one's wounds or one's wounding of others has done damage. In the 12-step process steps eight and nine are both concerned with acknowledging the harm one has done to others and with making amends. Every effective spiritual practice in some way helps the practitioner to become aware of the ways he or she has done harm to others and where possible to ask forgiveness.

The Unitarian Universalist hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition* includes a "Litany of Atonement" (#637) written by Rob Eller-Isaacs. Some years ago it was used during a service attended by more than 500 Unitarian Universalist ministers at a gathering of the Ministers Association.

Participants were asked to pair off, hold hands if they were comfortable doing so, look into each others eyes and respond to each line read from the chancel

by saying, "I forgive myself. I forgive you. We begin again in love." For many it was an intimate, powerful moment. Following the service the great Baptist preacher William Sloan Coffin who was keynote speaker at the convocation cornered Rob in an elevator. "Brother Isaacs" he growled, "just what makes you think you can forgive yourself."

His question points to one of the key differences between Calvinist and Unitarian Universalist theology. What makes us think we can forgive ourselves is that we consider everyone to be a child of God and that as such God works through each of us. Instead of a distant all-powerful God we have embraced a more intimate and, if you will, more humanist understanding. Instead of a God who condones or condemns we hold that everyone is already saved regardless of their sins and that heaven and hell are states of mind not destinations. In Unitarian Universalist theology forgiveness becomes a very intimate, very personal process.

Forgiveness has a public face as well. Think about the restorative justice circles we've convened to help us and others to work toward reconciliation. They are instruments for collective forgiveness. A particularly inspiring example of public opportunities for forgiveness is found in the work of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission which showed the world a new way to move beyond horrific injustice and move toward a new day. Some who suffer from systemic racism and other oppressions growing out of colonialism and other abuses of power testify that when present

continued on page 13

Worship Theme Resources

Books

No Future Without Forgiveness
Desmond Tutu, Image Books 1999

A Little Book of Forgiveness: Challenges and Meditations for Anyone with Something to Forgive by D. Patrick Miller

How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt and Forgiveness by Harold Kushner

Saint Maybe by Ann Tyler

Between Vengeance and Forgiveness by Martha Minow

Biblical Stories

Jacob and Esau – Genesis: chapters 25 and 27

Abraham and Isaac — "The Akedda," the traditional text for Rosh Hashanah
Genesis: 22

Matthew 18:21-22

Films

The Straight Story 1999 (PG13)
A lovely story of a man who drives 300 hundred miles on a ride-on mower in order to reconcile with the brother from whom he is estranged.

Crash 2004 (R)
Don Cheadle, Sandra Bullock and Matt Dillon are among a marvelous ensemble cast caught up in interweaving stories involving racial tensions, murder, intrigue and twists of fate.

A Long Nights Journey Into Day 2000
A brilliant documentary about the truth and reconciliation process in South Africa.



PARENTS!
Check out the family activities around forgiveness on page 13.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

We are just beginning to settle back into the routines of church life. It is wonderful to see everyone again! In late August I attended a meeting in Boston with UUA staff and other large church ministers. One of them is a vocal and passionate campaigner for year-long church. He believes that we miss a lot by not providing full programming all summer long. He argued that professional ministerial leadership should be present throughout the summer. Another colleague argued for the importance of summer study and reflection. I lifted up the compromise that serves Unity so well. The folks who want and need a break from active involvement in church get one. This of course, includes the people who worship at the lake throughout the warm months. On the other hand, the folks who are in town and want to attend worship can. When they do come they experience the depth and wisdom of the lay leaders of our congregation.

Anyone who attends summer worship will attest to the breadth and depth of its high quality. Every summer I beam with pride at the quality worship that the lay leaders of this congregation provide for us. This summer was no exception. As a matter of fact we had the highest attendance records for worship this past summer.

Rob and I attended whenever we were in town and appreciated every service we attended. We know that others of you also valued the quality services that were offered each Sunday. We are so blessed to be part of a community with such vision, capacity and creativity. I know how important these lay led services are to the community here at Unity and I know how much our hard working staff needs a break.

Rob and I tend to take the month of July off. Though we don't preach, we often work most of August gearing up for another church year. Our hearts and minds are never far from the church in the month of July. We read for pleasure certainly, but we also read and think about the coming liturgical year and do as much preparatory reading as possible. We just do it sitting on the deck under the pines looking out onto the lake after our daily bike ride and before kayaking on the lake. It is blessed time for us and it was particularly poignant this year as we welcomed our family throughout the month.

As Rob mentioned in his sermon, Ralph Waldo Emerson believed in miracles, but he challenged the established church of his day by redefining what a miracle was. He did not need the parting of the Red Sea or the stopping of the sun. For Emerson, "All life is a miracle," from "the blowing clover to the falling rain." Summer is a time to witness the miracles of the natural world and to once again be surprised by beauty so that we can return refreshed and reinvigorated for another great year here among you.

Of course once we are home and settled into the routine, we still are surprised by beauty, by the beauty of our own gathering as a congregation at Harriet Island, and the coming fall which is full of such glory and poignancy. It is good to be together again!

— *Janne Eller-Isaacs*

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The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Mia Mary Anderson

born September 4, 2008

daughter of

Travis and Emmy Jo Anderson

granddaughter of

Dick and Karen Buggs

Lily Anna Borgerding

born August 25, 2008

daughter of

Tony and Jennifer Borgerding

Luis Angel Hernandez

born September 4, 2008

daughter of

Anna Jurek and Miko Hernandez

granddaughter of

Gary Jurek and Rose Allen

Nick Allen, member of Unity Church, was elected by the Youth Caucus at General Assembly to serve as the Unitarian Universalist Association Board Youth Observer for 2008-09.

Congratulations Nick!

In Remembrance

Kenneth J. Batcher

September 16, 2008 - age 75

father of Bill Batcher

Margaret D. Kincaid

September 6, 2008 - age 93

Carol S. Merlin

January 5, 1956 -

September 16, 2008

sister of Ellen Merlin

Harry Sweet Ogden

January 15, 1924 -

August 22, 2008

OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

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.

October Worship Calendar

Worship Theme: *Forgiveness*

October 5

Your Waves Washed Over Me

— Rob Eller-Isaacs

We enter into the spirit of the Jewish High Holy Days contemplating the story of Jonah the reluctant prophet. But we won't focus so much on his reluctance as on his inability to forgive. Worship Associate Mary Baremore will join Rob, as we "forgive ourselves and each other and begin again in love."

October 12

Dragged Kicking and Screaming Into Heaven — Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed

Mark says of his sermon, "Give me that old time religion because today's world needs 19th century Universalism's proclamation of a loving God as much as it ever has." Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs will join Mark Morrison-Reed in the chancel for a *Living Our Values* Sunday.

October 19

Tripping On My Own Wings and Flying — A Lesson in Forgiveness — Leon Dunkley

Sometimes, forgiveness in the world outside depends on forgiveness in the world inside, on the delicate grace of self-acceptance, on a turbulent courage that one might call "deepest hope." Sometimes our own best efforts fail us and fail us well... right into the open arms of a noble gift. Hallman Ministerial Intern Leon Dunkley will be joined by Worship Associate Hal Freshley.

October 26

Forgiving Others — Janne Eller-Isaacs

Throughout the centuries people in the public realm have had to be accountable for their destructive or immoral behavior. Some refused to apologize, while others lied and schemed about their illicit deeds. Others have apologized but to what aim? Janne and Worship Associate Sue Babcock will explore the dimensions of public apologies. Is the common good enhanced or diminished by public apologies and what constitutes the difference?

Sunday 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.

October 5 — Wilderness Inquiry

Wilderness Inquiry (WI) brings together people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities for affordable outdoor adventures ranging from one day to one month. In 2007, 45% of WI's 9,903 participants were people with disabilities and chronic illness. Through shared experiences participants discover that people's perceived differences are far less significant than their many similarities. Several members of Unity Church are regular supporters of Wilderness Inquiry including Howard and Betsy Guthmann who nominated WI as a Sunday offering recipient.

October 12 — Summit University Planning Council (SUPC)

Summit University is one of the seventeen St. Paul Planning Districts helping neighborhoods voice issues to the city. The Summit University mission works to improve the common goals of the community. It promotes enlightened, active citizenship by providing information and conducting forums enabling residents to address issues that affect them. The SUPC serves the community surrounding the church and the University-Lexington-Summit-Capitol neighborhoods and has been in operation since the mid-1970's. Unity Church is one of the five neighborhood organizations represented on the SUPC Board of Directors and Unity Church member Pauline Eichten is the church representative to the board.

October 19 — Artability

Artability is an annual community arts project of the APOLLO Resource Center, a People Incorporated Community Support Program for people recovering from mental illness. Artability provides an opportunity for artists with mental illness to learn about, create, exhibit and sell their art in a comfortable, safe, and accepting environment. During a seven-month period, over 50 artists receive free workshop instruction from experienced artists and then exhibit their work for the public in a juried art show and sale. People Inc. 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.

October 26 — The Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Grounded in religious faith and conviction, the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice works for reproductive health, reproductive justice and reproductive freedom. It accomplishes this mission through education, spiritual/pastoral care, and advocacy. The organization's overall goals are broadening the public discussion about reproductive choice by breaking down the secular pro-choice/religious pro-life dichotomy, ensuring that women receive compassionate counseling and support as they make difficult decisions about their reproductive health and ensuring that young people have access to medically-accurate, holistic sexuality. Joseph LaFerla, Youth/Young Adult Coordinator at Unity Church, has used their resources to facilitate discussions about reproductive health in the OWL sexuality program at Unity Church. Unity member Ann Romanczuk is a co-chair of the MNRCRC board.

LIVING OUR VALUES

A Weekend with Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed

Each year when we invite our members and friends to consider and renew their pledges we invite a prominent Unitarian Universalist leader to come to Saint Paul. Past guests have included such luminaries as Laurel Hallman, Rebecca Parker, Forrest Church, Denny Davidoff, Rob Hardies and Rosemary Bray McNatt. This year we are thrilled to welcome the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed.

From Mark Morrison-Reed



From nursery school through the University of Chicago Lab and Divinity Schools I was always one of a few African Americans. Raised in the Unitarian Universalist faith I was ordained in 1979. With my wife and co-minister, Donna, I served congregations in Rochester, N.Y. and Toronto, ON. Donna and I raised two children. One of them is an editor and the other a mechanical engineer. After serving for 26 years we retired from ministry in 2005, and since then Donna is training to become a Jungian Analyst while I devote myself full-time to writing. The result is a book entitled

In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby, which will be released by Skinner House Books this month.

My route in and out of college was circuitous. Working as a janitor, waiter, dishwasher, community organizer, group worker, teacher, security guard and assistant manager, I gained lots of experience but never earned an undergraduate degree. After finagling my way into Meadville Lombard Theological School I received an A.M. in Divinity ('77) from the University of Chicago and a D.Min ('79) from Meadville. My graduate thesis was subsequently published. Entitled *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*, this history—now in its third edition—is a recommended text for Unitarian Universalist ministers.

Alongside parenting, ministry and writing, community service has been a central concern. During the years we lived in Rochester, I sat on the Monroe County Human Relations Commission and chaired its Task Force on Police-Community Relations. In Toronto I was the first person of color to become the President of the Family Service Association of Metropolitan Toronto. FSAMT, which serves people in over 24 languages, is the largest such agency in Canada. Within Unitarian Universalism I have addressed gatherings and conferences in the U.S, as well as in Canada, Belgium, Hungary and Japan, and served as President of the Canadian Unitarian Council.

Pledge Testimonial

from Jean Olson, Unity Church member

Some years ago I joined a small UU church where it seemed everyone had been a member for a long time. One Sunday I asked one of the older women how many years she had been a member. "I just joined last year", she replied. I was surprised and said that I had assumed she had been there much longer like everyone else. "Oh, I wish I had," she said. "I wish I had discovered Unitarian Universalism earlier. My life would have been so much richer and fuller. But I had no idea that such a place, such a denomination even existed. If only I had known...." Pat had found her spiritual home. When she developed cancer, the members were there to support her; when it went into remission they celebrated with her. And when she finally succumbed they were with her, surrounding her with love in her final days. She left her estate to the church that had meant so much to her.

But her words still haunt me, "if only I had known, how much richer and fuller my life would have been". There are thousands of people like Pat who are still searching. It is why I serve on a Welcome Team. And it is one of the reasons why, when we have been asked to give our share of dues to the UUA along with our pledge, I have always added extra. We need the national advertising and broader platform to proclaim our good words and works. We cannot be selfish and hoard this great place all to ourselves. There are too many who have been rejected and excluded and are confused and seeking. Our pledges support the abundant life we share here and keep open our doors to newcomers. Our financial support makes the difference in people's lives.

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.

Spend some time with Mark... Saturday & Sunday, October 11-12

Saturday Morning Leadership Workshop ~ 10:00 a.m. until Noon

Returning to Ritual: Explore the evolution of ritual within Unitarian Universalism and ask what our next steps might be. Everyone age 12 or over is welcome. Childcare will be provided - contact Christy Randall at the Church Office to reserve a spot in childcare. Come for the pancake breakfast from 8:30-10:00 a.m. and stay for the workshop!

Sunday Services ~ 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Dragged Kicking and Screaming Into Heaven • See page 3.

Sunday Afternoon Book Reading ~ 3:00 until 4:15 p.m.

Mark will read from his newly released book *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*. There will be a chance for conversation and the book will be available for purchase. Childcare will be provided - contact Christy Randall at the Church Office to reserve a spot in childcare.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / HALLMAN MINISTERIAL INTERN

The BIG DREAM

Letter from the Board of Trustees

from Carol Bauer, Chair

I love fall. Although I miss the long days and must say goodbye to sandals and t-shirts, it feels good to put on a sweater, to marvel at the changing colors, to make soup, to pull the blanket up around my shoulders.

As the Board begins its work for the next year, we are faced with a BIG challenge. Through the conversations that shaped our new Ends Statements, you gave us a mandate to grow. You want room for your children in the RE program, room to welcome new people into our church, room for our amazing music and outreach programs, and a beautiful and inspiring place to worship. And you want us to share our resources with the community.

In the coming months, the Unity Board and staff will be asking you to dream BIG. Fast forward five years...ten years. What do we look like? How are we making a difference within, among, beyond? Through a process not yet defined, we're going to ask all of you—children, adults, elders, stakeholders in our beloved community—to engage your imaginations to answer these questions. Through the dark months of winter, let's plant the seeds for renewal by co-creating a BIG dream for the future of Unity Church. How shall we bless the world?

How did you use the money from the Unity Church Bless the World Fund? Turn to page 7 to see how others are already *blessing the world*.

Pledge materials that were not picked up at church have now been mailed to homes. Please return pledge cards on or before Sunday, November 9, so that we can begin to build the budget for 2009. Thank you!

Living Our Values
Unity Church—Unitarian
Pledge Drive 2009

Integrity Joy
Service



An Intern's Public Journal—Entry One

NOTE TO SELF:

How will I introduce myself to Unity?
How do I start? Maybe it will be best to begin with poetry. Poetry is the spoken

song of life. It is the curveless melody that we 'sing' with one another. Poetry can say so much with so very little.

Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray
...to see thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly
and follow thee more nearly, day by day

That says a lot. I wish I had written it. There are better poems... like a cryptic conversation between life-long friends.

Friend 1: Hey...
Friend 2: Hey.
Friend 1: Geet?
Friend 2: Squeet.

That's the perfect poem right there...and a shared one at that. It might seem confusing but lifelong friends know how to break the code. If you haven't already unlocked it yourself, here's the key.

It goes without saying that "Hey" #1 means, "Hello. How are you doing? It's good to see you. How have you been?" and that "Hey" #2 means "Hello to you, too. I am doing well. It's good to see you as well. I'm doing great." It further goes without saying that "Geet?" means, "Have you yet had dinner?" or, more exactly, "Did you eat?"—these three words condensing down to the single syllable. Thus, geet. "Squeet," on the other hand, is more complicated. "Squeet" means, "No, I have not yet dined. I am delighted that you asked and I would be most honored to accept your gracious invitation" or, more exactly, "Let's go eat."—these three words condensing down as well.

Geet?
Squeet.

It is the perfect poem and it always ends with food. That's the beauty. We meet in the meaning that nourishes us. We don't get caught in the words.

If I begin this internship with poetry, I hope I am brave enough to begin one of my own...

Time and balance toasted on an evening in September
And, I swear, I saw a smile within their eye
Graceful as the trees were turning slowly into autumn
And restless in their reachings o'er the sky
As if raising hands to hold a gentle breeze

That would be a blessing, a simple toast to Unity...the best way I know to see and love and follow, day by day.

Every blessing.
Id

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Calling all GLBTQAI Congregants and Allies!

The Interweave committee is hosting a potluck and brainstorming meeting on Tuesday, October 23, at 7:00 p.m. We would love to gain your input as we plan educational, recreational and service related events for the upcoming year. All are warmly welcome. Please bring a small dish and idea to share.

Men's Retreat

November 1-2, 2008

Camp St. Croix

Join other Unity Church men at the Men's Retreat for two days of fellowship, fun, and spiritual growth. We will gather Saturday morning with a light breakfast and depart shortly after dinner Sunday night.

We'll have plenty of time to get to know each other better, and great programs are planned including: The Film Challenge (not a quiz), Working Toward Prayer, Take a Risk Talent Show and much more. Program leaders include Ken Ford, Leon Dunkley, Rob Eller-Isaacs, and Tim Como as Master of Ceremonies. Time has also been set aside for hiking and other types of play.

The retreat is at Camp St. Croix, located just 30 minutes east of the church on the St. Croix river. The cost is \$90 and scholarships are available. See Justin, Leon, or the Men's Retreat table after services for a brochure and up-to-date information. Please sign up by October 20. More information is available at unitymen.blogspot.com or register online at www.unityunitarian.org.

Want to save a tree AND postage for the church?

Receive this newsletter via e-mail. Send an e-mail to Martha Tilton at martha@unityunitarian.org and let her know to add you to the newsletter e-mail notification list.

Wellspring Wednesdays

Cost for Wellspring Wednesday dinner:

\$6/adult • \$4/child ages 5-12 • \$2/child ages 2-4 \$18(max)/family

October 1 • Dinner: vegetarian Russian stew over rice, fruit salad, pumpkin cookies

- Forgiveness: A Powerful Tool for Health, Relationships, and World Peace — Mary Hayes Grieco
- Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples — Grant Wacker
- Teens Serve it Up: The National Scene: Rebuilding New Orleans — Jr. High Youth Group
- Kundalini Yoga

October 8 • Dinner: roasted veggies, couscous, green salad, apple crisp

- The School Next Door: The Future of Webster Elementary — Lori Simon, Principal
- A Bold and Tender Heart: A Course in Forgiveness Especially for Men — Mary Hayes Grieco (preregistration required)
- Singing Meditation — Katy Taylor
- Living Wills — Janne Eller-Isaacs
- Speed Connecting
- Mano a Mano Ministry Team
- Teens Serve it Up: Bakin' in the Kitchen — Jr. High Youth Group
- Kundalini Yoga

October 15 • Dinner: pizza, salad, dessert

- Cohousing Communities: Building Greener Lifestyles — Joelyn Malone
- A Course in Forgiveness Especially for Men — Mary Hayes Grieco (preregistration required)
- Men's Group
- Teens Serve it Up: The Local Scene: Guest Rebecca McDonald — Jr. High Youth Group
- Kundalini Yoga

October 22 • Dinner: Hippogryph legs, HogWarts, Butterbeer, Prof. Sprout Salad, Cauldron Cake

- Youth, Food and Ecology: Creating Personal and Community Health — Ruth Murphy
- A Course in Forgiveness Especially for Men — Mary Hayes Grieco (preregistration required)
- Ethical Wills: Legacy, Content and Comfort — Janne Eller-Isaacs
- Board of Trustees
- Teens Serve it Up: Bakin' in the Kitchen — Jr. High Youth Group
- Kundalini Yoga

October 29 • Dinner: bring dinner to eat at the bonfire or eat before you come!

- Bonfire at Como Park! Details to come.
- Kundalini Yoga

Each Wellspring Wednesday, preschool and school-aged children can join other Unity kids for fun and fellowship. Families should check their children in on the evening's sign-in sheet in the Parish Hall before heading to their program.

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING



Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast

October 11 • 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. Come for the pancakes, stay for the Mark Morrison-Reed Leadership Workshop. See page 4 for details!

What's New at Unity Libraries?



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

I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a good book. –Groucho Marx

In addition to good books, there are a lot of reasons to go to your Unity Libraries this fall. A new catalog, new media collections, new reading areas, and the new "Kerri Meyer Paperback Picture Book Collection"—all will be unveiled at the **Unity Libraries Open House on Sunday, November 2, 2008**. Come on up to the second floor of the Elliot Wing to the Anderson Adult Library and the adjacent Whitman Children's Library to check out new acquisitions and improvements, and for treats, prizes, and fellowship.

An important part of Unity libraries is our excellent **Bookstall** in the Parish Hall. To help celebrate the Open House, the Bookstall will feature specially discounted items. All revenues from the Bookstall go to purchasing new books and media, and other library operations, so each purchase you make at the Unity Bookstall supports your Unity libraries.

The Bookmobile — Back by popular demand, the Unity Libraries Bookmobile will be in the Parish Hall after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Find here a variety of adult and children's new and classic books, CDs and DVDs.

Worship Theme Resources in Unity Libraries: Forgiveness

- *What if Nobody Forgave? And Other Stories* By Colleen McDonald (Skinner House, 2003)
- *Does God Forgive Me?* By August Gold (Skylight Paths Publishing, 2006)
- *Forgiveness and Other Acts of Love: Finding True Value in Your Life* by Stephanie Dowrick (Penguin, 2005)

Whether you've never visited our libraries or are a regular library user, we hope you'll stop by on Sunday, November 2. We look forward to seeing you.

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, October 14, in the Gannett Room. The book they will be discussing is *The Innocent Man* by John Grisham. Each book has a "sponsor" who begins the meeting by presenting a bit about the author and the book.

THE FOURTH TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, in the Anderson Library. The book they will be discussing is *Yellow Dog* by Martin Amis. The meeting begins with a quick "go-around" to get everyone's thoughts and responses to the evening's book. Bring a question for discussion.

Bless the World Stories

The blessings are already happening! 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

I was inspired by the story that was told to the children and the congregation about the talents and the chickens. I gave the \$20 from the envelope and an additional \$20 to Heifer, Inc for baby chicks. It won't be long and they will be producing eggs for their adoptive families. — Dianne Conner

My son (in the COA class) and I each got \$20 in "found money" from the church and set out to find a worthy cause. We were about to settle in on Hurricane Ike relief when we heard from our neighbor that his daughter, Lisa, age 27, was just diagnosed with breast cancer. As a graduate student, Lisa has somewhat spotty health insurance including a gigantic deductible. My son recommended that we donate the money to a fund-raiser that Lisa's friends are putting on for her and give a nice match too. When my boss heard what our church was doing and Lisa's insurance situation, he tossed in another \$20. He said he wanted to help Lisa out and he's never met Lisa in his life. He gave it in memory of his dad who died of cancer a few years ago. Pretty neat way of paying it forward! — Anonymous

We asked our children, Matthew (8) and Ingrid (5) who they would like to make the \$20 donation to. After considering the local food shelf and Heifer International they decided they'd give to Children's Hospital in St. Paul. I was surprised because we had never discussed giving to Children's Hospital before. Matthew said that his 2nd grade teacher had influenced him by telling a story about Children's Hospital. Ingrid was not totally aware of what we were talking about, but felt confident in the wisdom of her big brother. ;-) Thank you! — Rachel Kaul Palmquist

FROM THE ANTI-RACISM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Since January 2003, Unity Church-Unitarian has officially been on a journey of identity transformation. It was then that the ARLT was commissioned to “lead a process that will transform the identity of Unity Church into one that is actively anti-racist in its stance in the world” (from the commissioning document). This year Unity’s congregation has adopted a set of new ends statements in which that journey is embedded throughout.

The ends statements are in categories that articulate goals for institutional identity development in three areas: within, among and beyond. In each category, we see anti-racism development claimed as an intentional goal.

From “Within”: “The people of Unity Church have a deeply meaningful and transforming religious experience which includes: d. lifelong opportunity for learning, engagement and racial healing. e. knowledge of Unity Church-Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist history.”

From “Among”: “Unity Church-Unitarian is a radically hospitable, spiritually vital and supportive community where: a. people of all ages feel welcome and connected across identities including race,…”

From “Beyond”: “Unity Church-Unitarian is a visible leader and partner, making a positive impact in our neighborhood and in our world through: a. a commitment to anti-racism and racial healing in covenant with people and communities of color.”

How do we know where we are going? What will it look like when we get there? What do we do next? And how do we do it? These are questions that are often asked about this journey. We wish that there were easy answers to these questions for our church. And for our country.

A tool that we use is a guide that was developed by Crossroads, an anti-racism training group. It is a **Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Institution**. The continuum sees the institution change from one in which racial and cultural differences are seen as

deficits to one in which such differences are tolerated to one in which such differences are seen as assets. There are 6 stages described along the way. The first is seen as **Exclusive**. It is a **Segregated Institution**. This institution intentionally and publicly enforces racial status quo. It intentionally and publicly excludes. Racism is evident in formal policies, practices and decision making.

The second stage is seen as **Passive**. It is a **“Club” Institution**. This institution intentionally maintains white power and privilege through its formal policies, teachings, practices and decision making. It is tolerant of limited numbers of people of color with “proper” perspective and credentials. It often declares, “We don’t have a problem.”

In 2005, the ARLT presented the results of an historical audit of Unity Church-Unitarian. The team determined that when Unity Church was established (officially incorporated in 1873) it was a “Club Institution”. The founders of our church were “Old Stock” white European families from New England. An original Unity member is quoted as saying that “..the larger part of the ...1st church gathering...were persons from Boston and vicinity.” This population, highly literate and strongly middle class, was a part of the westward movement of New England Puritans which felt “especially called and chosen by God for some great work on earth.” They were intent on making their values and culture the values of the entire nation.

(From the audit):

It is our conclusion that people of color were excluded from the community of Unity Church. We do not think that it was done in such an overt manner as to post signs or to include race as a requirement for membership, but we think that there was a culture of such exclusion.

It is our belief that our Unity ancestors were of the part of American society that was protected by the government law at that time. They were the people for whom the

land had been taken away from the Native Americans. The rule of law was very important to them. The law mistreated people of color. To include people of color in the community would necessitate noticing that the rule of law was unfair. It would have required the community to take stands and actions that challenged the government.

We found no evidence that any such stands or actions ever happened here, even though the period of Jim Crow laws began in about 1877, four years after our church began. ...

(From the conclusion of section one of the audit):

We conclude that our Unity ancestors, if they acknowledged racism at all, wanted to see it as something outside of themselves. It is possible that they **did** not think of racism as affecting them or of themselves as being the beneficiaries of the racist system. It is also possible that they did know that they benefited from a racist system, but that they explained their privilege to themselves in terms that made it somehow acceptable. At any rate, Unity Church of the time was not a part of the resistance to racism in this country. The institution was, instead, a silent supporter and, since it was white, Unity Church and its members were beneficiaries of the racist system.

As we begin this next 5 years together, guided by our new ends statements, we urge all of us to think about this piece of our history. Read the audit for yourselves. Think about our connections to our first founders. They are us, after all. There is so much to respect and value in their story. At the same time, today we can look at our history with a different lens and make decisions about how we want to be as we go forward in time. We can decide to be the change we want to see in the world.

(See both the audit and the ARLT annual report at www.unityunitarian.org or at the ARLT table in the Parish Hall.)

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP / SERVICE AUCTION / CLERGY PLEDGE

Pathway to Membership at Unity Church

A series of three classes.

1. *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. *Welcome to Unity* covers the mission and vision of the church as well as the basics of historical and contemporary Unitarian Universalism. This class invites participants to reflect on their own faith journey and religious questions. *Welcome to Unity* is the first step for all those seeking to learn more about our faith.

- Sunday, October 5, 12:15–1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 5, 7:10–8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 3, 7:10–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 7:10–8:30 p.m.

2. *Finding Yourself at Unity:*

A Deeper Exploration of Who We Are

Finding Yourself at Unity is the follow up class to *Welcome to Unity*. Content includes Unitarian Universalist and Unity Church history (including a tour of the church), opportunities to share parts of your religious journey, discussion of the expectations and benefits of membership, and a chance to meet and be in conversation with the Ministers, Director of Religious Education and others. You will enjoy a video, lively discussions, great food, and much more. *Finding Yourself at Unity* is offered in an all-day Saturday format and as a three-week weeknight series.

- Three Thursdays: October 9, 16, and 23
October 9: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
October 16 and 23: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Light supper provided all three nights
- Saturday, November 8 • 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Includes a potluck lunch

3. *Committing to Unity: Joining Our Faith Community*

Our Pathway to Membership series concludes with *Committing to Unity* and 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. This class offers time to reflect on the meaning of generosity and how you can be generous to the church with your time, talents and resources in ways that bring you joy. Revs. Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs will join the class for a celebration ceremony as participants sign the membership book and officially join the church! Light snacks are provided.

- Saturday, November 15 • 9:30 a.m.–noon

Childcare is available during any of the above classes with advance reservations. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Justin Schroeder, Director of Congregational Development, at the Church Office

What is a service auction?

A service auction is a fundraising event where donated gifts and services are sold to the individual with the highest bid. All proceeds will benefit Unity Church.

This year, there are plans for three formats — a “silent” auction, where individuals can anonymously post their bids for merchandise or offers of service that are donated and displayed on tables at the event; a “live” auction held in the sanctuary with an auctioneer; and this year, we will also have an on-line component to our auction.

Here are some thoughts about what to donate...

If you own a truck, offer to haul some things...

If you love to cook, offer a meal for a busy family...

If you have a cabin, offer its use for a weekend...

There are so many wonderful gifts in this congregation. Think about how yours can be put to work.

Election Year Pledge for Clergy

In anticipation of the tensions and temptations which inevitably arise in partisan elections our ministers have subscribed to the following Interfaith Alliance pledge:

- To educate members of our congregation about how our faith relates to issues of the day.
- To refrain from endorsing any candidate, either explicitly or implicitly, in or on behalf of our house of worship.
- To prevent partisan speech from candidates or their surrogates, as well as the distribution of partisan materials, in our house of worship.
- To resist using or soliciting the resources of our house of worship for the exclusive benefit of any candidate or party.
- To respect candidates whose religious beliefs are different from my own, and stand against the use of religion to divide our communities.
- To encourage members of our congregation to take an active role in civic life, including casting informed votes.

Why We Make This Pledge... Personal faith and values play an important role in a voter's decision-making, but religion should never become just another special-interest category or organizing tool. The use of religion as a political tool has occurred with disturbing regularity in the 2008 election season. As religious leaders we stand to uphold the law and these six principles.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Come to the Fair!!

What sets our Unity Church social justice work apart from secular justice work?

Where does the inspiration for this justice work come from?

How do people find time in their busy lives to participate in community justice work?

Discover some answers to these and other questions at the second annual Unity Church Outreach Ministry Fair on Sunday, October 26.

All the current outreach ministry teams will be featured in the Parish Hall during coffee hour following both morning services. This is an opportunity to talk with members of the outreach teams about their ministry and learn about short and long-term volunteer possibilities with each.

In addition to the team ministry work, there will be information about other outreach projects and community coalitions of the Unity Church social justice program area. For more information, contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.



FROM THE GREEN SANCTUARY/
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
MINISTRY TEAM

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 or 320-732-3023 by Friday, October 10.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, September 15. Pay by sending a check, with the invoice enclosed with your order, to Whole Farm.

Joan Velasquez Recipient of the Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service



Congratulations to longtime Unity Church member Joan Velasquez who will receive the 2008 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service from the National Peace Corps Association on October 4, in San Francisco. Joan and her husband Segundo co-founded Mano a Mano International, a non-profit organization that has improved the lives of thousands of Bolivians.

Joan, a Minnesota native, graduated from Macalester College with highest honors and earned her master's degree at Case Western Reserve University before entering the Peace Corp in 1967. While in Bolivia, Joan single-handedly created and directed a daycare program that remains a model for daycare programs throughout the entire country. She also taught English and met her husband, Segundo.

When she returned to the U.S., Joan worked as a Ramsey County social worker in St. Paul. After receiving her PhD in social work from the University of Minnesota, she became the director of research and evaluation for Ramsey County Human Services. In the mid-1980's, she co-lead a team that implemented the nation's first electronics benefits system (EBS) which allowed low-income clients to swipe a card to pay for their food. EBS was honored by the Ford Foundation for being more respectful of clients and less subject to fraud.

In 1994, she retired from her research job and co-founded (with Segundo) Mano a Mano Medical Resources. This was originally premised on the simple notion that medical inventory that would otherwise be wasted could be routed to Bolivia. Minnesota volunteers have now collected and shipped over 2,500,000 pounds of medical surplus. On the receiving end, Bolivian volunteers continue to ensure that these medical supplies reach the neediest Bolivians. Mano a Mano International has now created a health care infrastructure of 89 community clinics in previously unserved rural areas. In the last few years, it has broadened its development scope by building schools, roads, airstrips, and water reservoirs in rural parts of the country.

Joan continues to work as co-director of Mano a Mano. Unity Church member Patricia Ohmans wrote, "Writing grants, filing reports, supervising staff, meeting with funders: this is the essential work that Joan has done for more than a decade—quietly, diplomatically and brilliantly." Joan has been recognized as an outstanding alumna of the University of Minnesota School of Social Work, one of Macalester's Distinguished Citizens, a co-madre of Chicanos/Latinos Unidos en Servicio, and, with Segundo, as KARE-11 Volunteers of the Year.

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.

Joan and Segundo will share stories of ongoing ethical issues and decisions they face in growing Mano a Mano International from a kitchen table operation to the largest provider of health services in Bolivia. Mano a Mano International is the community partner of the Unity Church Mano a Mano Ministry Team, sponsor of this presentation. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Voter Engagement Opportunities

Here are several voter engagement possibilities for the 2008 Presidential Election. For more information about these and other opportunities for voter engagement, contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.



It's Our Turn Now – October 4 Action Day

There is a group of churches and organizations who will be canvassing on October 4, in St. Paul. This canvass will target historically low voter turnout precincts.

What: Massive Statewide Inter-Organizational Voter Registration Drive

When: Saturday, October 4, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Where: Meet at 2233 W. University Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55114

Why: October 4 is exactly one month prior to the elections and ten days prior to the close of voter registration. We would like to make this **VOTER REGISTRATION DAY** in Minnesota. By coming together, this massive statewide initiative will once again inject the excitement that it is now up to the voters to cast their choice and make their voices heard.

If you would like to participate in this event, please call Martin Wera at 651-414-6015 or email at martin@wellstone.org.

Voter Registration Training

Join UUs from across the metro on Saturday, October 4, 2008 for this voter registration training. *What:* As part of this training, people will work in pairs and knock on doors in high traffic areas in metro precincts. Register new voters and canvass all voters to provide information on voting and voter rights. *Where:* Macedonia Baptist Church (3801 1st Ave S, Mpls). *When:* Two training shifts available on October 4: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or Noon – 3:00 p.m. Come at 8:00 a.m. and join Minnesota Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie, who will give us a rousing send off.

Ramsey County Needs Election Judges

Ramsey County is still looking for people who are willing to be trained and serve as election judges for the General Election on November 4, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Election judges serve critical roles in promoting voters' rights and making sure that everyone has a positive experience on Election Day. Sign up online at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/elections/judge. There are additional voting rights trainings offered by TakeAction Minnesota (www.takeactionminnesota.org) for potential Election Judges, or for other interested parties.

Rides to the Polls

Minnesota Participation Project (MPP) will be offering free rides to the polls on Election Day, November 4! They will have six accessible vans and several other vehicles throughout the metro area, ready to give free rides. They're looking for folks to volunteer to drive the accessible vans and receive the necessary training to do so, as well as folks willing to drive their own vehicles. To request a ride, volunteer, or for more information, call 1-877-NOV-2008 or e-mail vote@mncn.org.

Campaign to Ban Torture

Unity's Center for Victims of Torture Ministry Team is working on an important moral issue: stopping all U.S. government and contracted interrogators from using violence in interrogation and ensuring that the human rights of our detainees are protected. CVT is asking the President to issue an Executive Order to support the following declaration:

- The "Golden Rule." Do not employ any interrogation methods that would be unacceptable if used against Americans.
- One national standard. Adopt one national standard for treatment of prisoners.
- The rule of law. Acknowledge all prisoners to our courts or the International Red Cross. Allow prisoners to prove their innocence through a fair and just process.
- Duty to protect. Do not transfer any person to countries that use torture.
- Checks and balances. Allow Congress and the courts access to information necessary to provide oversight of our detention and interrogation policies.
- Clarity and accountability. Hold accountable all U.S. officials who authorize, implement, or fail in their duty to prevent the use of torture.

The CVT Ministry Team urges you to become involved because we want our current and future leaders to know that torture is always wrong. Violence in interrogations and neglect of human rights is morally wrong and, as religious liberals, we need to stop it. Please sign the petition asking the President to support this Executive Order! Visit www.campaigntobantorture.org or look for the CVT Ministry Team in the Parish Hall. To hear the podcast of the CVT Ministry Team's June 23, 2008 sermon on this issue go to <http://www.unityunitarian.libsyn.com>.



Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. October 21 items are hygiene products but all non-perishable food and household items are welcome and needed! 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.



Parents' Night Out

Friday, October 10

As part of our ongoing fellowship ministry, Unity Church will offer childcare for families from 6:00 until 8:30 p.m. on Friday, October 10. The only stipulation is that parents of participating children spend that time in the company of other Unity parents!

This is a great way to meet other church families; if you're not sure how to connect with parents that evening, we'll help facilitate introductions and the formation of groups of parents. Most participating adults head in clusters to nearby establishments for conversation and refreshments. Participation is limited to 25 children ages six months to 12 years. Contact Christy Randall in the Church Office to sign up by Sunday, October 5.

Unity Needs You to Serve as a Junior High R.E. Teacher!

In faith development, a person usually establishes the foundation of relationship – or disconnectedness – with religious community in their early teen years (ages 11-13). At this crucial stage, it's vitally important that young people feel valued, welcomed and challenged by their church.

Teaching Junior High R.E. makes a lifelong impact on the hearts and minds of Unity's youth. Classes are offered at the 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. services and last 13 weeks; fully staffed teaching teams allow each volunteer to select six or eight Sundays that work in their calendar.

Next semester's classes begin on January 25 and include:

High Feasts and Holy Days, Part 2 - This "holiday-of-the-week" class follows the cycle of the religious year across traditions, comparing and contrasting how food, music, practice and story play a role in the world's celebrations and observances.

Extreme Religion - This course explores fundamentalism and cults in the lives of individuals and in the fabric of societies.

Please contact Kerri at the Church Office to get more information about Unity's Religious Education ministry with youth.

R.E. Dates for your Family's Calendar

Sunday, October 19
No Religious Education (MEA Weekend)

Sunday, November 2
Story Sunday (Workshop Rotation children start in Sanctuary)

Youth Notes

Serve It Up! for Junior High Teens

Wednesday nights offer great things for 6th, 7th and 8th graders! On 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, youth speakers from the local and national activist scene are sharing how they got started in social and environmental justice. On 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, youth can enjoy fellowship with a purpose as we bake up goodies in the kitchen, both to enjoy ourselves and to share as a pastoral gesture. The group meets at 7:15 p.m. in the Junior High North room.

OWL

October's Our Whole Lives curriculum focuses on body awareness, relationships, sexual orientation, gender identity and responsible sexual behavior. The 9th graders had a blast at their bonding retreat at Camp St. Croix. Thanks to Paula Nelson, Unity member and clinic manager at the Red Door Clinic, for joining the OWL teaching team!

Coming of Age

We are now recruiting two male advisors for the Coming of Age program, which takes place from January through April. COA guides 9th graders through a process of clarification about their current spiritual beliefs. Contact Joseph LaFerla at the Church Office for more information.

Tower Club

In early September the Tower Club welcomed its new sophomore members through a fun, annual early-morning rite. In mid-September the teens discussed which social justice projects they'd like to create and participate in this year and voted to focus on an anti-racist fashion show (details coming soon!), interfaith work among neighboring churches, and tackling issues related to poverty. The group also determined some projects to nurture our own church including maintaining the church gardens, working with younger children, and assisting with the Christmas pageant.

Boston Pilgrimage

On October 15-20, Rob, Janne, and Kerri will accompany several teens on the annual trip to an area rich with Unitarian and/or Universalist history and heritage. The youth are grateful to the congregation for your support of their fundraising efforts, including donuts, wreath sales and the annual book sale. Look for travel journals in the November newsletter.

Unity Youth News

Eighth grader Katherine Allen was selected by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches to attend an Interfaith Youth Core media training in Chicago to work with 50 religiously diverse youth to learn how to tell their stories of religious pluralism to the world.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES AROUND FORGIVENESS

Learning about Yom Kippur

Share with your children the practice of atonement by learning from our Jewish neighbors and family members.

Yom Kippur is a day to apologize to ourselves and one another for the ways in which we have fallen short of being the people we want to be. Jewish teachings tell us that we can atone ritually for the sins of practice (not eating as we should, not praying as much as we might, wasting the blessings of food and wealth), but we cannot atone ritually for sins that we commit against each other – that atonement we must do in person. If we've hurt someone's feelings, lied to someone or otherwise done wrong by them, we must apologize to them directly and obtain their forgiveness. Jewish religious law says that even if a person doesn't forgive us the first time, we must try three times to offer our heartfelt regret and apology.

As a family, consider having each member - child and adult - write a letter to themselves around October 1, the end of Rosh Hashanah (marking the start of the Days of Awe, a period of introspecting and self-evaluation). In these letters, name the ways in which you have disappointed yourself and wronged others. Describe how you might make amends. Name the people whom you forgive for things they've done. Remind yourself of how you might make choices that help you to be more loving and forgiving. Put the letters in the the mail so that they might arrive around Yom Kippur, (sundown October 8 to sundown October 9).

Family Role-play

The arts of apology and forgiveness are learned skills. Stage a little 'dinner theatre' in your home with prompts like the following:

- Let's pretend one of us is a neighbor and another one of us has just broken that neighbor's window with a baseball. What would it look and sound like if we could watch the "I'm sorry" conversation between them?
- What would you do if you knew someone had broken something of yours, but every time you saw that person, they didn't confess or apologize.
- What are all the different ways you can say the phrase, "I'm sorry" (flat, snotty, flip, sobbing, robot-like, sincerely, desperately). Which way sounds like it's coming from your heart? Are there other words to use for "I'm sorry."
- What are all the different ways you can say the words "I forgive you"?

Word Search

When his friends asked him the question, "How many times should we forgive someone who hurts us? Seven, maybe?", the teacher Jesus of Nazareth had an interesting answer. He said, "More than seven times. Seventy times seven?" How many times is that? Talk about this idea as a family. How is it helpful advice? Are there times when that advice isn't the best for us?

Can you find the words "I Forgive You" seven times in this puzzle?

D S D A X W K Z O O Q P T A W U
I N O N D I F O R G I V E Y O U
O K E P G S S F D L R X T Y B Z
E M Q L E I W N E I S E E G K X
H F I R L I F O R G I V E Y O U
Z J R H R S A E E S I C I S L U
O B F J R R E L I G H M H J O N
M H A B E F B S R T T H N Y R M
T Q M X P O P O R E R A E I W G
I G A T I P F S A H G V M H I M
R E S O F I F O R G I V E Y O U
P T D F H Y S P L G L D E H B H
O T P N E X J R R R L L E B A F
B O G M S G X O G K A R G A F B
U E N M C E F X P G P E W M M W
T N L N B I Z N B N N A D P E X

Forgiveness

continued from front cover

day leaders apologize for past wrongs they help them to move toward forgiveness.

Forgiveness then is both an imperative and lifelong challenge. Each of us has been wronged. Each of us has done wrong. At our best we embrace forgiveness and discipline. We learn to include it as part of our regular spiritual practice. Ask yourself, whom do I need to forgive? Whom do I hope will forgive me? Then make a plan, and make amends, leave vengeance to the Lord, you and I have better work to do.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Wanted:

Choreographer for Unity Church Children's Musical

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.

Announcing:

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.

Music Ministry Offerings for Children and Youth

We have worked to think creatively and both evaluate and improve our music program offerings for children and youth in these last several years. Our hope is that they will be more coordinated with the R.E. program and designed to meet the needs of our children and youth with greatest effectiveness. Our program offerings for 2008-2009 are as follows:

Children's Choir: Grades 1 through 5 – Kathleen Radspinner, director

Sunday mornings 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. – Chapel

Children's Musical: Grades 5 & 6 – Sandy Waterman, Michael Lee, Joyce Paxton, directors

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

Youth Music Ensemble: Grades 6 through 8 – Ruth MacKenzie, director

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

Music Ministry Offerings for Adults

Unity Singers

Auditioned 17-voice ensemble. Rehearsals are Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.

Unity Singers Small Ensembles

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

Unity Choir

Non-auditioned ensemble of 60 to 75 voices. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.

Unity Choir Ensemble

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

Carmina Singers

A short-term, high-g geared 'special project' ensemble open to all choir members and congregation members only able to commit to limited rehearsal times – three successive Mondays (TBA), 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Ruth Palmer if you are interested.

Concerts with a Cause

These one-hour concerts will be offered periodically throughout the year followed by a reception and social time. All proceeds from these concerts are given to a named cause. All musicians donate their time and performance to the benefit of this cause. Watch for additional information in newsletters.

Unity Church Volunteer Musicians

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

Guest Musicians

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

PARISH HALL ART / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

October Parish Hall Artist

Patty Paulus

Patty Paulus has combined various careers over the years which have included teaching, painting and graphic design. Currently she teaches art at St. Paul Academy and Summit School and pursues her painting career in her home studio in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Artist Statement

The underlying objective in my work is to evoke an emotion from the viewer that taps into a memory of a place or time in one's life.

Through the use of blended colors, texture and energetic line, even my representational images have an abstract element to them that allows for an expansion of meaning. I might work from one of my photographs or just start with certain colors to see where the painting itself leads me to discover or uncover. By allowing my subconscious mind to guide me, lines and texture are added where they are needed at a particular moment in time.

The experience of painting becomes a type of meditation within the present moment that allows for complete freedom of expression. The layering of materials and paint can represent the complexity of our lives and the many layers of our personality which make us all unique individuals of interest to each other.

My intent is for my paintings to be intriguing to the eye and to convey some personal meaning for the viewer.



October 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, October 6 and 20 • 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

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 October 14 • 7:00 p.m.
Saturday October 25 • 10 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

Unity Church Bless the World Fund

On Sunday, September 21, the Unity Church Bless the World Fund gave each household sitting in the Sanctuary an envelope with cash in it. The directions were simple: use the money to bless the world in some way. This money is not supposed to come back to the church but to go out into the world to help others. Be imaginative. Be creative. **Then share your story with us.**

- Share and read online at: <http://unitychurchblesstheworld.blogspot.com>
- Read how people have already blessed the world - turn to page 7 now
- Share your story via e-mail: unity@unityunitarian.org
- Send us a letter!

Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed at Unity Church Saturday and Sunday, October 11-12, 2008

Saturday Morning Leadership Workshop ~ 10:00 a.m. until Noon
following the pancake breakfast from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Sunday Services ~ 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Afternoon Book Reading ~ 3:00 until 4:15 p.m.

Turn to page 4 for more information about this *Living Our Values* special guest.

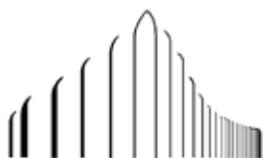
Save this Date...

Saturday evening, December 6, 2008...

...for a Jolly Holly Happening

a Unity Church auction -- that is both silent and noisy

Turn to page 9 to find out more...



UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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