

commUNITY

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Vocation

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

Vocation is that place "where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need," Frederick Buechner once said. From the same Latin root as the word voice, vocation refers to that which calls us, and so it requires that we listen. Attentively. With the kind of ear one holds open for a child's cries in the middle of the night; the kind one presses to another's chest to hear a quiet heartbeat.

The problem is, as we listen for our own "still small voice within" to advise us on the work we were made to do, we often hear a lot of other, louder voices instead. There's the voice of the marketplace telling us how to make a living. There's the voice of ego telling us what work is worthy of our effort and our name. There's the voice of friends and family telling us what work is appropriate or desirable. And the voice of practicality. How do we hear the "still, small voice within" amidst the clamor of all these other voices?

The prophet Elijah, in a story from the bible's older testament, faced this same question as he fled into the wilderness. All of the other prophets of his day had been killed. Elijah was fleeing for his life and hiding in a cave, when God told him to go stand on the mountain to be in God's presence. When Elijah did, the story tells us, God passed by, and a great wind tore through the mountains, breaking the rocks into pieces; and after the wind, came an earthquake; and after the earthquake, a fire. But God, we are told, was not in the wind or the earthquake or the fire. After the fire, came the still, small voice within, and

from it Elijah learned the truth of his own heart and the truth of his calling. It is the first biblical reference to an authoritative inner truth.

It is often difficult to quiet the tumultuous sounds around us to hear that still, small voice within, but that is exactly what finding our *vocation* challenges us to do. To ask ourselves, and with enough time and stillness to invite and hear the answer, what is it that I am meant to do? Who am I, and, perhaps more importantly, *whose* am I? Where does my gladness meet the world's great needs? Or, as the poet William Stafford says, what is it that "the world is trying to be"? And how can I participate?

"There's a thread you follow," Stafford says in a different poem. "It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change. . . . While you hold it you can't get lost. . . . You don't ever let go of the thread."

Vocation is often understood as a guiding thread that we hold onto like a lifeline, but maybe it's more like the warp of a piece of weaving, the multiple threads around which our lives are woven.

In a rug-making cooperative I once visited in northern India, I met one of the weavers, who sat before a rectangle of silk cords strung vertically in front of him as the warp of the rug. A design drawn on graph paper was tucked into the warp at eye level. Above his head hung spools of thread in many colors, their rainbow strands hanging down within reach of his hands. One at a time, he would pull a new thread down, wrapping it around two layers of the warp in a swift figure 8 before shearing it with a sharp hooked knife. At the end of each row, he tightened these knots with a metal comb and a taut string, packing them in, 400-500 per inch, in a design likely to require three to four months' time to complete even the smallest rug, 2 feet x 3 feet.

Finding our vocation is not unlike this slow art of weaving. It is not a one-time

discovery or claim, but the long, patient creation of the design of our lives, requiring attention and stillness. The warp, spun of our gifts and our weaknesses both, provides the inner structure. We cover it slowly and beautifully over time with the many colored threads of our passions and activities – paid and unpaid – pulled through the warp until a design emerges, a beautiful pattern, a striking balance, the whole cloth of our lives.

— Karen Hering,
Assistant Literary Minister

Worship Theme Resources

BOOKS

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation by Parker Palmer

Leading Lives That Matter: What We Should Do, Who We Should Be Edited by Dorothy C. Bass and Mark. R. Schwehn

FILMS

Stand and Deliver (1988) Edward James Olmos stars as Jaime Escalante, a math teacher at Garfield High who didn't give in to the students and their self-defeating story. Instead, Escalante challenged his students doubly hard and brought out the best in them.

The Insider (1999) The true story of Jeffrey Weigand, a tobacco industry researcher, who discovers a company secret that endangers the user. In the hope that his actions might save lives, he agrees to an interview with 60 Minutes and everything seems to unravel.

The Devil Wears Prada (2006) The Devil Wears Prada mixes elegance and style with real life lessons in interesting and surprising ways. A double triumph... one for independent thought and the other for the charismatic, voguish seeming excesses of the fashion world.

Families!

Read about vocation on page 13.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

Do you remember the one about the Unitarian Universalist who comes to a fork in the road? The road sign indicates that heaven is to the right but that by taking the left hand fork one will eventually arrive at a conversation about heaven. Guess which direction she chooses. When confronted with the question, in what or in whom do you place your faith, I often say, our faith is in the conversation, would you like to have one? My response may seem glib at first, but it implies both a theological perspective and a spiritual practice.

We believe that one of the best places to look for the Holy is in the place between ourselves and others. From that perspective conversation at its best becomes a kind of contemplative prayer. Love begins with listening. One of the very best things we can promise each other is that we will set aside our ideologies and our assumptions and simply listen. Love also teaches us to testify, to tell our friends and neighbors how our lives have been nourished and sustained in the hope their lives might also be enriched.

Over the next few weeks we hope everyone who benefits by their involvement in Unity Church will be willing to have a conversation. We hope to convince you to do one of two things. We need two to three hundred of you to agree to be canvass leaders. That means that you're willing to overcome your reticence and talk to three other people about why you support this congregation. Perhaps even more importantly we need you to listen. We're all aware this has been a tough year for many of our friends and neighbors. The church can help but only if we know what people need. Those of you who, for whatever reason, choose not to be canvass leaders will need to signal your appreciation of the church by opening your home and your heart when your canvasser comes to call.

We can't afford to do business as usual. For the past few years, we've been receiving grant money to support our social justice and young adult programming. This coming year we need to close a significant gap as the grant period ends. Experience shows that people are more generous when they are asked to give by those who have already made a generous commitment themselves. So, instead of business as usual this fall we are conducting an every member canvass. The more of you who agree to visit others the easier the job will be.

Janne and I are thrilled to be home and to begin our tenth year as ministers of your beloved church. We deeply appreciate the many expressions of love and concern we've received as our son, Jonah deals with his cancer. Let's make this the best year yet. As Denise Levertov asks us, *"How could we tire of hope? –so much is in bud... so much is unfolding that must complete its gesture, so much is in bud."*

— Rob Eller-Isaacs

Special Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, September 20, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service

The Board of Trustees has voted to call a special meeting of the congregation in order for it to endorse the Board's unanimous decision to recommend the ordination of Jacqueline Duhart. **Turn to page 4 for more information.**

Invitation to the Ordination of Karen Hering



Assistant Literary Minister Karen Hering joyfully invites you to attend her ordination at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church (in Mahtomedi), Sunday, September 20, at 2:00 p.m. Directions are available at www.whitebearunitarian.org.

Church Calendar Updates

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

On September 20, 2009, we will return to our three-service Sunday schedule with services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Marathon Alert

It's autumn again and the Twin Cities Marathon will wind its way along Summit Avenue the morning of Sunday, October 4. Many roads will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please plan alternate routes and allow extra time to reach Unity Church that morning.

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SEPTEMBER 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.

September Worship Calendar

September 6 • 10:00 a.m.

She Works Hard for the Money (And You Better Treat Her Right)

— Dane Smith

Labor advocates and spiritual progressives have found common cause for a century and a half in Minnesota and the nation. The righteousness of all God's children getting fair recompense and enjoying the fruit of their labor is foundational for the Judeo-Christian tradition, and others too. After decades of progress earlier in the 20th century for working people, Labor Day 2009 finds us at low ebb. Union membership has declined sharply over the last 30 years and middle- and lower-income households now have a smaller share of total income than they've had since the Depression. But there's new hope and energy rising, and a growing understanding among business leaders that we must obey Donna Summers' message in her hard-driving 1983 anthem for working women (and men): We'd better treat them right. Musicians: Rochelle Lockridge and Rod Kinny, guitar and vocals.

September 13 • 12 Noon

Merging of Waters

Service will be held at Battle Creek Regional Park

Bring the water you have collected from your journeys this summer and come merge the waters of the world in a service of reunion with the whole Unity Church congregation. Our ministers, Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs, will conduct the service and will be joined by Director of Religious Education Kerri Meyer, 2009-10 Hallman Ministerial Intern Lissa Gundlach, Director of Congregational Life Leon Dunkley, and musical guests the Eclectics. Details for this special worship service are on the back cover of this newsletter.

September 20 • 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

***Holy Discernment* — Janne Eller-Isaacs**

How do we know when we have been "called" to particular work or tasks? How do we respond to numerous calls coming from different directions? How do we do as Quaker educator Parker Palmer says, "Let our lives speak"? Janne and Worship Associate Katy Taylor will explore this dimension of vocation.

September 27 • 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

***A Job of Work to Do* — Rob Eller-Isaacs**

Stuck in a dead-end job? Move. Or don't. Sometimes a change of attitude or perhaps, of consciousness is really what's called for. Could it be that our upwardly mobile, self-centered culture puts too much emphasis on moving on and too little emphasis on staying put? There are times in our lives when only faith can see us through. Rob and Worship Associate Steve Harper will bring our series on vocation to a close with a service for the High Holy Days.

2009-2010 Monthly Theological Themes

Each month worship, religious education, community outreach ministry, covenant groups and Wellspring Wednesday programs will offer opportunities to contemplate, consider, contend with and discuss an intergenerational curriculum based on monthly themes. Our hope is that this approach will bind us more closely together and inform our lives in effective and positive ways. Here are the themes for the 2009-2010 church year:

September: Vocation

October: Sacrifice

November: Pilgrimage and Pilgrims

December: Incarnation

January: Courage

February: Love

March: Brokenness

April: Transformation/Resurrection

May: Hope

June: Belonging

Join a Welcome Team!

Unity Church welcomes visitors, members and friends at Sunday worship services through the ministry of its Welcome Teams. Each volunteer joins a team, offering hospitality at one service, one Sunday a month. Each team has a leader who supports the team and the individuals on it. We encourage team members to get to know one another, so that their camaraderie will extend to a warm welcoming presence on Sundays. Joining a Welcome Team is an excellent way for both newcomers and longtime members to get to know new people.

If you are interested in joining a Welcome Team or would like more information please contact Leon Dunkley at the Church Office.

Turn to page 11 for information about the weekly offering recipients.

PLEDGE DRIVE 2010 / BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Pledge Drive 2010

Conversations (Part 1)

from Lia Rivamonte, Pledge Team with
Chris Crosby-Schmidt and Marianne Davis

Excuse me, sir...uh...hi—wait! Hello, ma'am, excuse me—do you have a minute?

Uh, hi— do you have a minute...for the environment?

If you've been to the farmer's market or your local co-op this summer you may have been approached with this opening gambit—*do you have a minute?*

Well, do you?

We're asking. We, the Pledge Team, on behalf of you, the congregants of Unity Church, are asking for your "minute." You may be called on to take part in a conversation with another congregant or two (or three) about pledging. Or, you may be on the receiving end of that request. When you are approached, instead of hemming and hawing, we need you to say, **YES!**

Why? You might ask. *Why me?* It seems obvious but let me explain: You value this place and what it stands for—you care about what we do here. You want it to remain the healthy, vigorous, stimulating church-community that helps give your life meaning — a place that supports and encourages your efforts to lead a life of **integrity, service and joy.**

It is a tough financial period for many of us. Some of us feel that we have nothing to spare right now. Believe it, we know this. Still...we need and want to have that conversation with everyone. The one about **money.** It is so important that we dare not leave anyone out.

Unity Church cannot operate without *your* pledge. And, because the business of Unity Church is so much about going deeper, it is natural, even critical that we establish a more profound basis for everything that we do here. Asking for your time and money is not an empty, reflexive gesture. It is asking that you return the goods on your promise. *Remember what we have promised one another?* That covenant is at the core of Unitarian-Universalism.

So...please, respond with a resounding **YES!** Agree to take part with joy in this conversation. By the way, the theme of the dialogue is not limited to money. As mentioned, the conversations we are eager to begin are truly meant to be broader and, yes, to "go deeper."

Hey there—got a minute?

Letter from the Board of Trustees

from Ray West, Trustee

It usually seems that summer has barely registered on me before it's over and we are firmly into fall. While I never mind lingering in the warmer months, and my mind often returns to them when snow is on the ground, fall will always be my favorite time. To me, fall is a time of anticipation and possibility. The color of the light and the smell of the air pulls up sensations of returning to campus with such immediacy that the 20-plus years since I left college are gone. I feel like I could blink my eyes and be there, greeting friends and ready to start anew. The beginning of the church year and the Merging of Waters service bring the same feelings to mind. And this year I'll chase after that "back to school" feel by volunteering as a teacher (along with my wife, Michelle) in the Religious Education program. I look forward to getting to know many kids and their adults. The feeling of connection to the church deepens greatly with the more connections I make to other members. And nothing makes for many and deep connections like volunteering. It's this linkage between each of us that makes us a strong community. And linkage, to the various ministries, groups and individuals of the church, is what the board continually strives to strengthen. The members of the board cannot function in a vacuum and neither can the members. While the size of our community can make it easy to feel anonymous, we are blessed with so many and varied ways to participate.

Volunteer for something. Deepen your connections and enhance your experience!

Ordination of Jacqueline Duhart

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition a gathered congregation must vote to ordain a ministerial candidate. Having completed her work at Starr King School for the Ministry and having met the requirements of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Jacqueline Duhart, 2007-08 Unity Church Community Ministerial Intern, has asked the congregation of Unity Church to ordain her.

At the Board of Trustees meeting on July 8, 2009, the Board voted to call a special meeting of the congregation in order for it to endorse the Board's unanimous decision to recommend the ordination of Jacqueline. This meeting of the congregation will take place immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 20, 2009.

As Unity's first Community Ministerial Intern, Jacqueline Duhart worked with both Unity Church and Unity's community outreach partner Amicus. Jacqueline currently lives in El Cerrito, California, and is serving as an on call chaplain for Alta Bates Summit Medical Center and providing women's spirituality and peacemaking groups for the women's Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California.

NOMINATING TEAM - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Seeking Nominees for the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees makes every effort to ensure that Trustee recruitment is an open and accessible process. Through the Nominating Team the Board actively and strategically recruits and nominates new members based on commitment to the church, demonstrated leadership, ability to fully perform the functions of the position, and diversity and points of view needed to reflect the stakeholders and moral owners of Unity Church.

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

We are looking for three trustees to fulfill three-year terms on the Board beginning in November of 2009. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees or learning more about Board service, please contact Zack Steven at 612-869-9704 or zack.steven@buythechange.com, or leave a note expressing your interest in the Board mail box in the Copy Room at the church by September 20, 2009. All candidates will be contacted by the Nominating Team soon thereafter. A slate of three candidates will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on November 22, 2009.

Trustee Position Description

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

Connection to the Mission and Ends: The Board has a clear mission for Unity Church and Board members are committed to that mission. *The mission of Unity Church is to engage people in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service and joy.*

Principal Responsibilities: The Board follows the Carver model of policy governance which focuses on “ends” rather than “means”. The majority of Board time is spent visioning and planning for the future rather than managing the present. Trustees are responsible to the moral owners of Unity Church-Unitarian, who have been defined as “all those who yearn for the beloved community and see Unity Church-Unitarian as an instrument of its realization.” Trustee responsibilities include:

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

Qualifications

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

Time Commitment

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



What's New at Unity Libraries?

The Unity Library Open House

At the annual Unity Library Open House this fall, something special is in the works. Maybe you have noticed that some volunteers have been faithfully working in the library or bookstall on Sunday mornings for many years. Please join the Unity Library Team as we honor longtime volunteers for the many years of great service to Unity Church. Watch for an announcement for more details.

Unity Library Goes Multi-media

The Anderson Library and Whitman Children's Library now collect books on CD for children, DVDs, and CDs. Several of the great selections include:

- *Jazz*, the winner of the 2008 ALA Odyssey Award for Audiobooks.
- *The Emperor's Egg*, Martin Jenkins story of father penguins; CD/book.
- *Earth Town Square*, Peter Mayer's wonderful CD
- *The Power of Forgiveness*, a film by Martin Doblmeier on DVD.

Library Team to Publish Unity's First Literary Journal

Unity Church is blessed with an abundance of creative talent; there are many excellent writers and artists in our church. We think it's time to provide a vehicle in which you can share your words and art, and so Unity's first literary journal is born. The journal will feature full-color cover art, black and white art inside, and poetry, short fiction, memoir, reflections, and history, related to the values of Unity Church and the fall worship themes, "vocation," and "pilgrimage." Please share your gifts with Unity Church by submitting original pieces for the premier issue by **October 12, 2009**. For more information turn to page 9 or visit www.unityunitarian.org.

Enter the **Name That Literary Journal Contest**. E-mail your suggestions or stop by the table in the Parish Hall on Sunday, September 20, after the 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. services. The winner will be announced the following Sunday.

Writing and Reading as Spiritual Practice

Open Page: reflecting with pens in hand

These guided writing sessions, led by Assistant Literary Minister Karen Hering, are invitations to the creative spirit, opportunities to correspond with "the still, small voice within." No writing experience is required — only an empty page and an open heart and mind. Registration is not necessary, but if you plan to attend your e-mail or phone RSVP will assist in determining handout quantities. Contact karen@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456, ext. 128.

Tuesday, September 15 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Reflection Topic: *Coming Out Stories*

"Whatever coaxes us out of hiding," says the writer Sark, "to write, record, and express is a revolutionary act (that) says our lives count." In this guided writing session, you are invited to bring your own story out of hiding. We'll explore on our own pages the personal truths and stories that we often keep hidden.

Wednesday, September 30 • 7:15-8:30 p.m. (Wellspring Wednesday program)

Reflection Topic: *Vocation*

We've often heard Frederick Buechner's definition of vocation as that place "where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." Join in a shortened Wellspring Wednesday writing session exploring the rich topic of vocation, our current monthly worship theme.

Sunday, October 4 • 2-4 p.m.

Reflection Topic: *Pilgrims and Pilgrimage*

"The geographical pilgrimage is the symbolic acting out of an inner journey," said Thomas Merton. This guided writing session will explore the inner and outer aspects of pilgrimage.

Lectio Divina: a practice of spiritual reading

It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there. — William Carlos Williams

Sunday, September 27, 10:15 – 10:55 a.m., between services

Come and listen for "what is found there" in a brief reflective session, using the Benedictine practice of "lectio divina" or holy reading. We'll meditate on poems and readings related to September's theme of *Vocation*.

Poetic Tools for Change

A Nicaraguan Literary Tour • February 16-24, 2010

Information sessions to be held in early October.

You are invited to travel to a place where it is said "everyone's a poet until proven otherwise," in this 9-day Nicaraguan literary tour led by the Unity Church assistant literary minister next winter. The tour is organized by the Center for Global Education at Augsburg College and co-sponsored by Unity Church. For information contact Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org or visit <http://www.augsburg.edu/global/itsdocs/10hiy-nica.pdf>.

Book Club Update • This Book Club is open to all!

The Second Tuesday Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8. The book they will be discussing is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* a fiction by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Each book has a "sponsor" who begins the meeting by presenting a bit about the author and the book. This discussion will be led by Terri Hawthorne.

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING



Second Saturday Pancake Breakfasts are Back!

Unity Church is having a kick-off pancake breakfast on Saturday, September 12, from 8:30–10:00 a.m. You'll enjoy local sausage, OJ, all you can eat pancakes, and lots of lingering and good conversation. The cost is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. **Bring a friend!**

Interweave Ministry Team Looks Ahead

As we begin the new church year, Interweave is already busy planning programming that we hope will bring the BGLTQ community together with its allies here at Unity Church. Last spring we began a series of writing workshops on the theme of coming out, facilitated by Karen Hering, Assistant Literary Minister. Everyone is invited to attend the final workshop in that series which will be held this month.

All of us – gay and straight – have something to tell about our truest selves, which, when revealed, will contribute to the larger community and in turn nurture our own spirituality. The telling of our stories, first for our own eyes on the empty page, can help us find our voice for other times when we wish to share our stories out loud with others. Sharing in the writing sessions is always optional. Please join us on Tuesday, September 15, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Robbins Parlor. Please contact Christy Randall at the Church Office to request childcare for this session.

Unity Women's Full Moon Ritual

from Becca Pournoor and Suzanne Burr

The full moon ritual is a first step in honoring the promise, from last January's Gathering, to create women's programming that supports feminine connection, encourages spiritual practice, reaches inward toward growth and reaches out to the world. Suzanne Burr attended the Gathering and was reminded of how much she missed the full moon rituals she participated in while living in San Francisco. Out of her interest a small group of women met during the spring and summer to envision and practice a moon ritual which will begin on the Blood Moon on Sunday, October 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center Room.

Each month we will gather under the full moon: Monday, November 2; Wednesday, December 2; Thursday, December 31; Saturday, January 30, 2010 (The full day **Gathering Retreat** followed by a Full Moon dance! Mark your calendar!); Sunday, February 28; Tuesday, March 30; Wednesday, April 28; Thursday, May 27.

Additional women's programming will be offered during the year such as Circling, Writing One's Bucket List, Grief and Loss, Women's Sexuality and much more.

Attention All Unity Writers and Artists!

Poetry, Prose and Art Wanted!

The Literary Journal Committee is now collecting submissions for the inaugural issue of Unity's first literary magazine to launch this fall. Share your literary or artistic voice with Unity Church and submit your work for publication review this month.

Help Wanted!

Seeking enthusiastic people to join a dynamic literary committee; art, graphic art, or desktop publishing experience desired, but not necessary.

For more information:

- contact the Literary Journal Committee at literaryjournal@unityunitarian.org
- call Jean Olson, committee chair
- watch for more information on Sunday in the Parish Hall
- come to the next Journal Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 22 • 7:00 p.m.

Our Whole Lives for Young Adults

OWL, our faith's comprehensive sex ed curriculum, helps participants navigate young adulthood with accurate information, increased self-knowledge, enhanced safety and strengthened interpersonal skills. Open to younger adults ages 25-35. Wednesday evenings beginning late September. Twelve weeks for \$35 (sliding scale). Space is limited. To register or for more information, contact Joseph LaFerla at the Church Office..

It's Time to Sign up for Circle Suppers!

As the church year begins, you are invited to sign up to enjoy good suppers and great company with other members and friends of Unity Church. Starting in October, Circle Supper participants will meet in the homes of church members for food and fellowship. These groups will meet for eight months from October 2009 through May 2010.

There are a variety of suppers planned for families, vegetarians, those who strive to eat local, and more!

If you are interested in hosting or attending a Circle Supper, please sign up in the Parish Hall after Sunday services on September 20 or 27. Suppers will begin in October. Circle Supper hosts will open their homes for 8 - 10 guests and potluck dishes will be organized. The hosts of one meal will, in turn, be guests at the next and so it goes.

Questions? Contact Ryan Carlson at 651-699-2888 or rc_and_lauren@yahoo.com. Join us!



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE / HALLMAN MINISTERIAL INTERN

Use Your Nametag on Sundays

Our current nametag trays have reached their capacity, or in several alphabetical letters exceeded their capacity. We know that many nametags are not being used, or that some people with a nametag have left Unity Church without notifying the Church Office.

To make space in the trays, we will be making a notation on the backs of those nametags used on the four Sundays in October 2009. Then after Sunday, October 25, we will remove those nametags not being used. To retain your nametag you need to use it at least once on a Sunday in October and then place it in one of the Nametag Return baskets. If you file it back in the tray, we will have no way of knowing that you used it.

If you wear your nametag on an October Sunday, place it in a Return basket and later discover that it is missing, please call or e-mail Julie Handberg in the Church Office at 651-228-1456 x110 or julieh@unityunitarian.org, and a new nametag will be made.

Sanctuary Sound Team Needs You No Experience Required

Once in a while the sound system has a glitch during a worship service. For that reason we are forming a new Sound Team to be up and running by September 20.

We need a few good people to monitor the system and tweak a few knobs when necessary. The system is uncomplicated and we will show you how to make these adjustments. Your commitment will be for 1-1/2 hours one Sunday a month. You can actually participate in the service from the choir loft where the system is located.

If you care about the sound quality during worship, here's a way you can truly make a difference. To volunteer, please contact Julie Handberg in the Church Office at 651-228-1456 x.110 or julieh@unityunitarian.org.

September Parish Hall Artist Betsy Miller

Betsy Miller, new to the ranks of exhibiting photographers, shows an eye for nature's simple patterns. Miller's images are meant to provide an island of calm in today's chaotic world. She finds inspiration in her surroundings, be they natural, architectural, or human. Finding beauty in the mundane is a central theme of her work. Miller often uses a soft focus to create photographs that are reminiscent of paintings. Each situation is unique, and she changes her artistic process to optimize the visual potential of her varying subjects.

www.unityunitarian.org
unity@unityunitarian.org

Introducing Lissa Gundlach

2009-2010 Hallman Ministerial Intern



It is with gratitude and enthusiasm that I introduce myself as Unity Unitarian's 2009-2010 Hallman Ministerial Intern. Thank you for your commitment to being a teaching congregation and to host me with such warmth and hospitality.

To tell you a little bit about myself, I am a lifelong Unitarian Universalist with spiritual roots in my home church of First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts. I followed my Unitarian Universalist faith and values to complete a religious studies undergraduate degree at Vassar College, and worked for justice in many capacities before beginning my path to ministry. After four years of theological learning, in May I graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York City with a Masters of Divinity degree. Now I gratefully continue my formation serving Unity Church as ministerial intern.

In his poem "The Lightest Touch," David Whyte writes, "good poetry begins with the lightest touch, a breeze arriving from nowhere, a whispered healing arrival, a word in your ear, a settling into things." As I reflect on my journey and introduction to Unity Church, I feel a resonance with the poet's words. In the very first days of August, I packed up my car and left the sizzling streets of Brooklyn, New York, for the bright green plains, wide sturdy rivers and silver lakes of the Upper Midwest. I am beginning to settle in and am thriving. There is a quiet peace about this city that is calming and invigorating to me. Hospitality, generosity, and kindness seem to be a way of life. "A whispered healing arrival" it has been indeed.

The "light touch" of good poetry, according to David Whyte, is only the beginning of the experience. "Then," he writes, "like a hand in the dark it arrests the whole body, steeling you for revelation." After only a few weeks, I am beginning to feel the power of the spirit of Unity Church and it is stunning. The heart of Unity is a muscle that has grown stronger through years of practice loving and learning together to create a church that transforms lives and is willing to be transformed.

I am honored to be invited to serve the congregation of Unity Church—Unitarian as your Hallman Ministerial Intern. If we have not yet met, I look forward to the opportunity to meet you and to better know your mind and heart. I look forward to a year of learning, growth, and challenge with you. It is with much gratitude for your care that I take my next steps, knowing that we are walking together in faith. May our year together be like good poetry — gently healing and boldly revelatory.

Lissa can be reached by e-mail at lissa@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x129.

COVENANT GROUPS / PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Gather in Peace and Thanks

The Good Word on Covenant Groups

This fall, Unity Church–Unitarian is launching new Covenant Groups! These Groups will gather for seven or eight, two-hour sessions between the middle of September and the end of January. There are a variety of days and times at which groups are scheduled to meet. You can register to participate in a Covenant Group at the Covenant Group Sign-up Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays. Scheduling forms are also available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

A Covenant Group is a small gathering of people who meet once every two weeks for spiritual reflection and sharing. In the group, a trained facilitator will lead a conversation that gathers the spirit of the Sunday services together with the spirit of our lives. These conversations are a kind of spiritual practice. They deepen our self-awareness. They deepen our understanding of the world. They deepen our understanding of the ways in which we live. They build communities that grow in wisdom, confidence and interconnection. Each member of the Covenant Group makes a commitment to share deeply, to build connections and to explore faith through reflection and active listening. In so doing, each member commits an act of radical hospitality.

Radical hospitality is an idea that comes to us from the Benedictine tradition. In *Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love*, Father Daniel Homan and Lonni Gollins Pratt write:

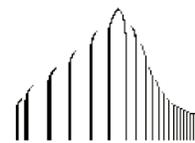
When I let a stranger into my heart, I let new possibility approach me. When I reach past my own ideas, I begin to stretch myself open to the world, and this opening of my heart could change everything... It is a spiritual practice, a way of becoming more human, a way of understanding yourself. Hospitality is both the answer to modern alienation and injustice and a path to deeper spirituality.

Covenant Groups are open to possibility. Its members create a covenant (a sacred promise) with one another. They covenant to abide by their own rules for group interaction. With this, the joy of interconnection truly begins.

Covenant groups gather. They assemble the necessary tools and set out quickly to explore spiritual waters, waters that run like rivers through our lives. So often we do not tend to important aspects of spirituality unless we are forced to do so when crises happen. When we are in crisis, we walk the careful paths of spiritual necessity. We ask questions about what we need in order to survive. When we are not in crisis, we venture farther from such paths. We explore spiritual possibility with a sense of awe. We wonder and we wander, as free as children, in the garden. The power of spiritual crisis is often present in the garden but it does not limit the way we see the world. We are not blind to all the beauty that surrounds us. Exploring these themes in a structured way makes it possible to meet powerful challenges creatively and to meet them in less stressful moments in life.

Participants in Covenant Groups meet for five months. At the end of that time, the group chooses one of two possibilities. The group either chooses to end or agrees to randomly divide itself and start two new Covenant Groups. In either case, the final meeting allows the group members to practice healthy endings and to hold themselves accountable for saying good-bye. Forming new groups at the end of every five-month cycle allows Covenant Groups to truly live out the idea of radical hospitality by continually making room for the newcomer.

So, dive on into the spiritual river of life! Join a Covenant Group. Jump in! The water's fine.



Pathway to Membership at Unity Church

Welcome to Unity

This class is geared to newcomers, visitors, and those seeking to learn more about Unitarian Universalists and Unity Church. Upcoming *Welcome to Unity* classes:

Wednesday, September 16
7:10 – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7
7:10 – 8:30 p.m.

Finding Yourself at Unity

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. Upcoming *Finding Yourself at Unity* classes:

Saturday, September 19
9:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Includes a potluck lunch

Tuesday, October 6, 13, and 20
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Light supper provided all three nights

Committing to Unity

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. Upcoming *Committing to Unity* classes:

Saturday, September 26
9:30 – 11:30 am.

Tuesday, November 10
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

To sign up for a Pathway to Membership class, please contact Leon Dunkley at the Church Office.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Mano a Mano Celebrates Dedication of 100th Clinic

from Joan Velasquez

On June 20, 2009, Mano a Mano reached a milestone that surpassed our most passionate dreams – the dedication and opening of our 100th clinic in the rural community of Mizque, Bolivia. Mano a Mano also built a 14-classroom school in Mizque.

We created Mano a Mano in 1994 with a vision that seemed vast at the time – to collect donations of surplus medical supplies and instruments in Minnesota and send them to Bolivia. Guided by the premise that groups of committed volunteers can reach across national boundaries to make a dramatic difference in the lives of others, we collected 500 pounds of instruments that year. We thought we had achieved a major accomplishment. Soon we began building one clinic each year in rural areas where health care was not available. But that's only the beginning of the story.

Fast forward to 2009. By now, fifteen years later, our "kitchen table" operation has shipped 2,700,000 pounds of medical items to Bolivian health care programs. Our counterparts at Mano a Mano – Bolivia have finished building and have opened clinic # 100 - actually a small hospital that specializes in maternal and infant care. During its dedication one Mizque resident said, "Our town has existed for 406 years. We have waited that long for a hospital. Now, thanks to Mano a Mano, our wives and children won't die."

Creating infrastructure for health care and education literally transforms life in these rural areas where annual family income ranges from \$200 - \$300 yearly. Although health outcomes for urban Bolivians have improved dramatically during that past four decades, these gains had failed to reach into most of rural Bolivia. Mano a Mano clinics are achieving unprecedented results in difficult, materially impoverished environments. Our physicians and nurses have attended the deliveries of 9,400 babies. All mothers and all but 42 infants survived. Our 100 clinics make health care available to over 700,000 people.

The Mano a Mano Community Outreach Team, commissioned by Unity Church, promotes and supports the work of Mano a Mano. Thank you to members of this beloved community for your contributions of funds, time and passionate advocacy to this work.

We invite you to take part in volunteer opportunities at Mano a Mano here in our community and to consider traveling to Bolivia with us during the winter of 2010. There you will view our projects first-hand, work and celebrate alongside our counterparts. Stop at the Mano a Mano Outreach Team table in the Parish Hall on Sundays for more information.



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 September pickup, place an order at wholefarmcoop.com or 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, September 9.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, September 16. Pay by sending a check, with the invoice enclosed with your order, to Whole Farm.

Evergreen Foodshelf



The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. 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.

These items are suggestions and any nonperishable item can be donated. All food is taken to Sharing Korner Food Shelf.

September 20 — canned fruit and vegetables

October 18 — shampoo, soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes

November 15 — canned tuna, canned meats, rice, beans

December 20 — dish or laundry detergent

January 17 — spaghetti, canned stews, pancake mix, syrup

February 21 — canned vegetables, beans, rice

March 21 — peanut butter, jelly, cereal

April 18 — basic canned soup

May 16 — diapers and baby food

June 20 — cooking oil, detergent

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

September Offering Recipients

September 6: Rebuild Resources

Founded in 1983 by a recovering alcoholic, Rebuild Resources helps addicts and alcoholics be sober, self-sufficient and of service by providing meaningful, transitional employment in business enterprises the organization owns and operates. These businesses, located in St. Paul's Midway area, are a Contract Manufacturing business and a Custom Apparel and Promotions business. Program participants remain in their employ long enough to build a job history and work reference and to gain the fundamental skills required to become a valuable employee. Custom Apparel and Promotions provided t-shirts for the non-profit agency where Unity member, Kate Heider is employed.

September 13: Friends of the Mississippi

Friends of the Mississippi (FMR) advocates a new vision for the Mississippi River, especially in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Through active leadership and education, FMR seeks to preserve and restore the river's fish and wildlife, its vital floodplains and scenic bluffs, its natural and cultural treasures, its beauty and its romance. Founded in 1993, FMR works in a non-partisan way to enhance water quality protection in the 72 miles of the Mississippi River in the metropolitan area. Rebecca Flood, member of Unity Church, has participated in numerous FMR activities, including removal of invasive species, tree planting and bird watching events.

September 20: Women Venture

Located on University Ave, in St. Paul, Women Venture is a local leader in providing the tools and support to help women start their own businesses, find a job, develop a new career path, and rebuild their lives after divorce, death of a spouse, or other setback. Women Venture serves women and men of all economic and ethnic backgrounds. In its three-decade history, more than 90,000 men and women have been served. Unity Church member Dick Buggs nominated this viable community organization with the knowledge that it has also served many people from Unity Church.

September 27: IaM Resources, Inc.

Since 2004 IaM Resources has provided educational enrichment and assistance to children of color so they may reach their fullest potential. In cooperation with the public schools and other community resources, they developed the Saturday School Program that provides mentoring and tutorial services to targeted children in partnership with Ames Elementary School, St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict. IaM also provides field trips, breakfast and psychological services that have made a difference at Ames. During the 2006-07 and 2007-08 testing years, Ames Elementary students closed the achievement gap in both reading and math. Iris Cornelius, who has been a member of this church for over 30 years, is the president and founder of IaM Resources, Inc.

Offering Criteria Revisited

The Unity Church Generosity Ministry Team and the Executive Team developed the following new criteria for Sunday Offering nominations from congregation members. Potential offering recipients must meet the following criteria:

1. The mission and values of recipient organizations must reflect the core values of Unity Church-Unitarian.
2. Recipients must have some connection to Unity Church through shared work, affinity, or Unity Church support.
3. The offering will make a significant contribution to the program with the majority of funds going toward programming. Recipients must have a budget that is mindful of the balance between program and administrative costs.
4. Offerings will focus on local programs in or serving beneficiaries in the Twin Cities. Consideration will be given to non-local programs with a strong connection to Unity Church members.
5. Preference will be given to new nominations. Recipients will generally receive the offering just once within the formal church year.

Unity Church-Unitarian Annual Pilgrimage to New Orleans

Mark Your Calendar!

The third Unity Church Pilgrimage to New Orleans will take place from Saturday, March 6, through Saturday, March 13, 2010. Contact Pat Haff at the Church Office if you would like to learn more about this annual journey.

Amicus Walk • Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Como Lake, St. Paul • Distance: 1.67 miles

Amicus is taking a walk around Como Lake in support of those incarcerated, those trying to make a new start after serving a prison sentence and the friends and family members who love them. Nearly 1 in 100 Americans is currently behind bars. Join supporters who are walking around Como Lake in order to help those leaving prison walk a straighter path. For more information, please contact Amicus at 612-348-8570.



Interested in Signing Up for Religious Education? **Parent Orientation, September 9!**

Our last pre-program year orientation for new and returning families will take place on Wednesday, September 9. A Wellspring Wednesday dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.. The orientation will begin in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. and last until 8:30 p.m. Supervised activities and childcare will be provided in the Parish Hall and Nursery.

This orientation provides an important opportunity for families to learn about the philosophy and vision that undergird our shared ministry with children and youth. Registration for R.E. students age 3 through grade 8 will only happen at this orientation; parents and guardians will also choose the role in the ministry that best suits their gifts and interests. Please note that the registration deadlines for Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age have passed. Families attending the September 9th orientation should be aware that most classes at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. have reached Safe Church capacity and are closed. There are spots available for children and youth of all ages at the 4:30 p.m. service.

Religious Education Begins September 20!

All registered children and youth will begin R.E. classes on Sunday, September 20, at all three worship services. Parents can follow the following routines:

- Nametags are vital for both safety and for building relationships. Please see that your child wears his or her nametag!
- Spirit Play preschoolers should be signed into their classroom each Sunday by a parent or guardian. Sign-in begins 10 minutes prior to the start of worship. Help your child find his or her nametag. Collect your preschooler immediately after worship (10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m., respectively).
- Workshop Rotation (Grades 1-6) students begin with a worship experience. At 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., parents should make sure their child is wearing his or her nametag and then escort the child to the Ames Chapel for children's worship. At 11:00 a.m., children begin in the Sanctuary with their families and are blessed out to R.E. classes after the anthem. All elementary school-aged children **MUST** be collected from their classroom by a parent or guardian 15 minutes after the end of the service (10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m., respectively). Please see that your child puts his or her nametag in the blue pocket chart near the church exit doors; you can find it right there the next Sunday.
- Junior High students (Grades 6, 7 and 8) begin in their classroom each Sunday. Their class ends 15 minutes after the end of worship (12:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m., respectively). Junior High students can leave the classroom without being collected by a parent; please arrange a weekly meeting point so that your family isn't frustrated trying to find one another.
- Story Sundays and Family Sundays follow different routines. Please watch for signage and printed information about these special multigenerational worship services.

Please contact Kerri in the Church Office if you have questions about the start of the Religious Education year.

Welcome Family Training

Monday, September 14 • 6:30 p.m.

Did you know that, on average, four families visit Unity each Sunday searching for a new church home for their children? Welcome Families greet these visitors every Sunday.

If your family is interested in becoming or has signed up to serve as a Welcome Family, please join us Monday evening, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. for a fun, casual training. Parents and children of Welcome Families provide special hospitality to families visiting with children and youth, orienting them to our ministry and connecting them with classrooms to visit together. Childcare is provided for infants and toddlers upon request; school-aged children are invited to learn and serve with their parents. Contact Kerri at the Church Office for more information.

For Parents of Children with Special Needs

Mark September 19 on your Calendar!

If your child has special learning, sensory, mobility or developmental needs, please join us for one of three small-group "visits" to orient your child to the R.E. spaces and routines before the crowds and noise arrive on Sunday the 20th.

We will spend time calmly exploring the classrooms and walking through a Sunday routine, giving your child a chance to feel out the space and sequence of R.E. before Sunday School begins the next day. Visual cue cards will also be provided to families whose children need help anticipating transitions and changes in environment. Each visiting session is limited to four children with their parents and will last less than one hour. Please contact Kerri in the Church Office to sign up for the 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. visit on Saturday, September 19.



Talking about vocation with children: some starting points...

Read good children's literature:

- Brock, Bryn and Karen Childs. *The Story of the Call of Samuel*
- Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*
- Morris, Ann. *Work*
- Paulsen, Gary. *Worksong*
- Paulsen, Gary. *The Tortilla Factory*
- Winter, Jeanette. *Wangari's Trees of Peace*

Share your story:

Make a visual timeline telling the story of your working life from your childhood through today. Explain how the work you did felt or didn't feel like work you were called to do. Ask your child to help illustrate the timeline with you.

Start a discussion:

Ask your pre-teen or teenager, "What's something you wouldn't do, not even for money?" and then, "What's something that you would happily do every day, even if you weren't paid?"

Learn more:

Use Appreciative Inquiry-style exploration to name a child's strengths and gifts and possible futures in which those gifts meet the world's deep needs.

Meditate:

Spend time with a child in contemplative meditation. Help the child create a silent space into which a call might be whispered.



Youth Notes

Coming of Age

There are big changes in store for our 9th grade class on spiritual identity. The best parts of the old class remain: teens still partner with adult mentors for conversations about personal theology, youth still bond at an exciting weekend retreat, and the course continues to culminate in the sharing of original statements of faith. New features to the class include: a longer, richer calendar using solid curriculum from the UUA, greater emphasis on Unitarian Universalist identity, and a shift in emphasis from storytelling-style "statements" to more concise "credos." It's going to be a fantastic year! Deep gratitude to our team of adult advisors: Sue Babcock, Amy and Bryan Kujawski, Susie Macpherson, Julia Reimer, Dallas Robertson, Craig Rot, and Tom Sherman.

Our Whole Lives

Changes come to OWL this year as well. Our comprehensive sexuality education program moves to Wednesday nights, and lasts a full calendar year to include more of the outstanding curriculum. In addition, the class is now open to eighth and ninth grade youth. Teens will learn a lot about themselves, their values and the culture we live in during this holistic, active class. This year's committed team of facilitators includes Matt Brown, Jacques Capesius, Kate Goodrich, Rene Meyer-Grimberg and Paula Nelson.

Tower Club

Beginning September 23 high-school-age youth (especially our Coming of Age graduates!) are invited to join Tower Club, our high school youth group! Tower Club meets on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:30 p.m. This year we'll start out getting to know each other better, design a social justice project or two (think BIG!), nurture our spirits in youth worship, and develop some small group activities of our choosing. Along the way there will be overnights, fundraising fun, special events, good people, a couple of donuts and a trip to a place called Boston. Want in? Contact Joseph or Kerri at the Church Office.

Attention kids in Grades 3-6! Want to become a Chalice Lighter?

Unity loves having children of the congregation participate in our liturgy by lighting the flaming chalice during worship. This special task is allotted to children in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades who have participated in a fun two-session educational gathering in which we learn about the history of the flaming chalice and its role in our faith today. One parent must participate in the class with each child. What a great way to learn more about our faith together!

This year's sessions will meet on Fridays, September 11 and 25, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Pizza dinners are included!! During the session, we'll learn stories of our faith from the Reformation and the Second World War, make our own chalices and practice playing our part in Unity's worship. A special investiture ceremony will take place on Sunday, September 27, for new Chalice Lighters. Contact Kerri at the Church Office to sign up for this special opportunity to learn and serve!

PARISH HALL ART / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Sing in a Unity Church Choir

Here at Unity Church we have a vital choral program and invite you to consider joining us this year. Yes, for the adults, it is a huge help to have some musical experience such as music lessons at some time in your life or having sung with a choir, high school, church choir, etc. Of course, if that is not in your background but you have a passionate interest and the courage to 'jump into the flow of things' in order to learn a new skill, we invite you to come and sing with us.

Please feel free to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with any of your questions at ruth@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x118.

First rehearsals for this church year are as follows:

Children's Choir (grades 1 - 5) - Sunday, September 20, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Kathleen Radspinner, director

Unity Choir (adult, high school and beyond) - Thursday, September 10, from 7:30–9:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come at 7:00 p.m. for a chance to visit and share some snacks before this opening rehearsal begins. Ruth Palmer, director

Unity Singers (auditioned membership) - Wednesday, September 9, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. This choir works to create a particular ensemble balance of 16 singers. At the moment, there are no openings available. However, Ruth is delighted to speak with anyone who is interested in becoming part of this type of group. Ruth Palmer, director

Carmina Singers (adult, high school and above) - A 'one-time' experience group that meets for three rehearsals and then performs once in our services. This is random and occurs no more than twice during the year. Rehearsals this season would occur on Sunday mornings from 10:15–10:45 a.m. Ruth Palmer, director

"Walk-in" Choir (adult, high school and beyond) - An opportunity for those that would love to sing with the choir but just cannot make the rehearsals. We traditionally offer this on the second Sunday in June; rehearsal at 9:00 a.m., performance at the 10:00 a.m. service. Put it on your calendar or feel free to contact Ruth and she will send you a reminder as time approaches. If the schedule allows, we'll make efforts for one more time during the season. Ruth Palmer, director

September 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.

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, September 14 and 28 • 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: Leon Dunkley at the Church Office

Unity Singles Group

Watch *This Week at Unity* for scheduled events.
Contact: Bonnie Reiland at bonniereiland@aol.com or Rick Ahern at hern44@hotmail.com

A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of the month • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

Afterthoughts

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

Unitots!

A group for families with kids through preschool age
Every Friday • 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Michelle Hill

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 • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Mary Barrett, 651-225-9708

Evergreen Quilt Group

Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

Unity Book Club

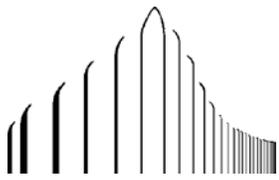
Second Tuesday of the month • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Leon Dunkley at the Church Office

Networking Group

Every Monday • 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Wendy Frieze, wendyfrieze@mac.com

Write for Unity's new Literary Journal!

Turn to page 7 for details.



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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**TIME SENSITIVE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Merging of Waters Family Sunday
All Congregation Worship and Celebration!
Sunday, September 13, 2009 • 12 Noon
Battle Creek Regional Park



Bring the water you have collected from your journeys this summer and come merge the waters of the world in a service of reunion with the whole Unity Church congregation. Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs will conduct the service and will be joined by Director of Congregational Life Leon Dunkley, Director of Religious Education Kerri Meyer, 2009-10 Hallman Ministerial Intern Lissa Gundlach and musical guests The Eclectics.

Nursery care: for children ages three and under during the service.

Picnic lunch: following the service we will eat together. Bring your own picnic lunch as well as a favorite dish to share with others sitting near you. Beverages will be provided.

Directions/Driving: To get to Battle Creek take 94 East to McKnight Road South. Follow McKnight Road to Upper Afton Road and go left - follow the signs to Battle Creek Park.

Carpooling: Battle Creek lacks adequate parking for everyone to drive there and park so we strongly encourage carpooling. Some of you could do this on your own within neighborhoods. Or, if you have a minivan please consider giving rides to people who would otherwise arrive as one or two people. Drivers of minivans and those willing to carpool from Unity's St. Albans parking lot are asked to notify Julie Handberg at the Church Office at julieh@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x110. If you will drive, Julie needs to know how many extra passengers your minivan can carry, or if you are seeking a ride how many are in your group.