

# commUNITY

Vol. 33, No. 11

UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

AUGUST 2010

## August Worship Calendar • Services are at 10:00 a.m.

### August 1

#### ***Things of this World* — Patricia Ohmans**

"Love calls us to the things of this world," wrote the poet Richard Wilbur. And yet for some of us, our "mountains o' things" can be a way of shielding ourselves from experiencing love and life deeply. How to navigate between asceticism and acquisitiveness? Patricia Ohmans and Worship Associate Laura Schlatter will offer a service on things and their meaning. Musician: Kristin Sponcia, jazz piano.

### August 8

#### ***Barriers, Boundaries, and Belonging: The Adventure of Border-Crossing* — Ashley Horan**

"Don't go south of the Midway." "Stand on the Side of Love in Arizona!" "We walked out and went to the Arlington Street Church." "What does it mean to be a neighbor to the Rondo community?" The geographical boundaries we draw with our bodies, communities, and institutions are declarations to the world about our deepest values, just as much as the boundaries we construct around our identities. How does our faith call us to be "border-crossers," both physically and spiritually? Musicians: The Caswell Family.

### August 15

#### ***A Sermon Without Words: Exploring the Wisdom of Silence* — Richard Fousheé**

The poet Khalil Gibran wrote: "Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing..." His words echo the theme of all major religions that point to the importance of seeking and abiding in silence. Let us briefly step out of our cacophonous life and listen to the wisdom of silence.

### August 22

#### ***The Lost Art of Namaste* — Katy Taylor**

We are often invited to bow to each other during Worship. Why acknowledge each other in what some might call a subservient, and others a reverent, manner? What is the deeper meaning of "namaste"? Katy Taylor and Hal Freshley explore how inviting this often overlooked orientation into our lives can support the unfolding of the Beloved Community. Musician: Sunita Stanislow, harp.

### August 29

#### ***Claiming Our Faith* — Mary Baremore**

Most of us who come to Unity started off our lives growing up in other faith traditions, or did not attend places of worship at all. What brought us here to this holy place? What keeps us coming back? When, if ever, do we call ourselves Unitarian Universalists? Mary Baremore and Worship Associate Bob Stellar explore questions of bright faith and enduring faith in a UU context. Musician: Hans York, voice and guitar.

### September 5

#### ***How Much for Me? How Much for Thee and We?* — Dane Smith**

We are all God's children and as Unitarian Universalists we share a core conviction that the Divine One does not want the blessings of our earth distributed so unequally between us children. Reconciling selfishness and selflessness is foundational to spiritual and emotional health. Sorting out economic self-interest and the public interest is central to economics and politics. An important new work called "The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger" is the latest in a body of research showing that the more unequal a society is, the worse off everyone is, not just the poor. In our nation and in our state, we have a worsening inequality crisis, and it creates a spiritual crisis, and these issues should animate us as we sort out candidates and policies in November. Musician: Bailey and Malaby Webster, double bass and violin.

## Offering Recipients

### **August 1: Casa de Esperanza**

Since 1989, Casa de Esperanza has mobilized Latina and Latino communities to end domestic violence. Their starting point is supporting and assisting Latina communities to recognize their strengths, build on them, and reach their goals. This process builds on the belief that effective responses to domestic violence are shaped by where people live—home, workplace, market place or church—and that it is the community that will end domestic violence.

### **August 8: East Side Learning Center**

This is a one-on-one tutoring program for children in grades K-4 that began on the East Side of St. Paul with a group of concerned citizens and the School Sisters of Notre Dame to address gaps in school success. In the past year, over 180 volunteers tutored over 150 students who needed help in reading and literacy. Last year, Unity Church member Harry Wernecke volunteered an hour a week at ESLC and is "highly impressed with the great books and clever teaching games used in the program."

### **August 15: Hamm Clinic**

Hamm Clinic provides premier mental health care for our community, particularly for those who are underserved because of racial, cultural and financial barriers. Some of the outstanding features of the Hamm Clinic include bilingual, bicultural therapists; an active research department; and active participation in many community events. As a Hamm Clinic participant, Unity Church member Liz Curran has benefited greatly from this program.

### **August 22: Bridging, Inc.**

Founded in 1987, Bridging Inc. is a Twin Cities non-profit organization that provides the economically disadvantaged in transition with quality furniture and household items free of charge. Bridging Inc. bridges the gap between those who have and those who have not, benefiting those in desperate need including refugees, immigrants, victims of family violence or natural disasters and the homeless.

### **August 29: East Side Learning Center**

See August 8 description.

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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## Talk With Us!

from Beverly Heydinger, Trustee

Clear communication – We all value it. We all strive for it. Yet so often we fall short in our efforts to clearly express what we mean and fully understand what we hear. Much of what we say and hear comes out of our individual background, experience, personality and interests. And the words we use, the tone, the body language, all play an important role in communication. Is it any wonder that participants in the same discussion frequently walk away with different impressions? Or that we occasionally have misunderstandings with people we know well? And yet we have also experienced the meaningful connections and knowledge that come from deep conversation.

Unity Church is embarking on the exciting, challenging process of planning the future of our facilities, and with the choices we make, giving priority to what is of value in our spiritual life. How do we speak and listen carefully as together we shape a shared vision and plan? How will we express our yearning to dream and our concern that we stay grounded in the possible? What will we learn from listening to the dreams and concerns of others?

On June 13, the Executive Team presented to the congregation the recommendation from the *Unity Tomorrow* Team to go forward with “the hybrid approach,” both planning to expand our sacred Holly Avenue space and also beginning to plan for programming at a second site. The ET will move in to the pre-design phase, to determine the limits of our current building and site, develop conceptual plans and cost estimates, and determine what we can realistically afford. It will also develop a plan to assure that we are communicating openly and respectfully as we grow toward change.

The Board has two important roles to play in communication. It has a fiduciary obligation to regularly communicate with the Executive Team about the steps that it is taking to develop and implement a comprehensive planning process. By asking for regular reports and engaging in discussion with the Executive Team, the Board will be able to assure the congregation that the Executive Team’s actions are congruent with the policy governance model under which we operate.

The Board also has an obligation to communicate with a very important group of stakeholders, the members of the congregation. We must talk to you and listen to you. Do you see your core values reflected in the vision? Do you understand the process? What questions do you have? What input would you like to offer?

It is an essential tenet of our liberal faith that there is no delivered “truth,” that each one of us must grapple with our own understanding. There is no better time to practice this aspect of our faith than as we move ahead with the excitement and challenge of planning Unity’s future.

Please join with us in this hard work. Be kind and courageous as you express your views and listen to others. Ask questions when you don’t understand or would like more information. The Board wants to engage with you so that as our shared vision emerges, it is understood and embraced.

To paraphrase Mark Morrison-Reed, a visionary Unitarian Universalist leader, the central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. Alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.

The Board will be talking with you over the months. If at any time you have comments or questions, please contact any one of the Board members.

### The Board of Trustees Unity Church–Unitarian 2009-2010

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**Consider serving  
on the  
Board of Trustees.  
See box at right.**



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# TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS / PLEDGE TEAM / PSD

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## Consider Serving on the Unity Church Board of Trustees

Serving on the Board is a great way to be meaningfully engaged in the life and mission of Unity Church-Unitarian, and it's an opportunity to develop strong relationships with the Executive Team, fellow Board members and the broader community.

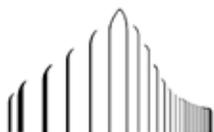
In the coming weeks the Trustee Nominating Team will interview candidates for the three Trustee positions whose term begins at the November 2010 Annual Meeting of the congregation.

Trustees serve three year terms and you'll find Board service most rewarding and engaging if you have skills, experience and/or passion for some or all of the following:

- Leadership and strategic planning
- Relationship building and organizational development
- Government (especially Policy Governance)
- Financial management and fundraising

Serving on the Board is an important and impactful way to live out your values while helping to maintain and grow a strong organizational foundation that can support and sustain this vibrant community.

Please contact Carol Bauer at 651-295-3277 or [caroljbauer@gmail.com](mailto:caroljbauer@gmail.com) to express your interest, or to recommend someone else as a candidate for the Board. Additional details will follow in next month's *commUNITY*.



## From this House to the World

### Pledge Drive 2011

Dan Huelster, Pledge Team

Attending General Assembly earlier this summer brought home to me what a special place we have here at Unity Church-Unitarian. In conversations with Unitarian Universalists from around the country, time and time again I was reminded of what we can, and are able to do, because of our size and because of who we are. Unity Church has had a historic role within the Unitarian and now UU movement. This role continues in myriad ways; interestingly, our Nick Allen, the youngest at-large member on the UUA Board of Trustees, gave its report to the General Assembly on its vision for the UUA in the coming decades. Unity spearheaded the move to policy governance nearly two decades ago, adapting this model and making it ours; only recently has this model been adopted by the UUA Board. We are a teaching congregation, and our past (and present!) intern ministers were in abundance at the Minneapolis Convention Center. We sing at Unity Church, and thus it felt right to see Ruth Palmer leading the 150 strong GA adult choir.

Last month Janne Eller-Isaacs endeavored to put Unity Church "in context." By numbers, our 855 pledging members make us the 10th largest UU congregation in the country. More importantly, our participation on any given Sunday during the church year shows that we are the third most active congregation in the country. Unity is a vibrant, vital institution where we are replenished, sustained, challenged, befriended, and offered opportunities to participate in meaningful work within "this house" as well as in "to the world."

When the Pledge Team chose the line from Ben Allaway's anthem as our theme, we did so with our knowledge of what Unity Church is, as well as anticipating where the work of *Unity Tomorrow* will lead us. Allaway has stated, "the 'house' refers to the Bandari, ...or 'house of peace,' a place where the community can gather to celebrate, work out problems, develop unity and find a renewed sense of purpose. Every community has its Bandari..." For us, Unity Church is our Bandari.

As we move through summer, and tentatively think about fall, the Pledge Team asks that you consider joining us in our effort to canvass every household in our beloved church. Canvass training sessions will be held from the end of August, through mid-September. The pledge drive itself will start the last weekend of September, and canvass visits will be occurring the first few weeks of October.

The conversations promise to be rich and rewarding as we "find [our] renewed sense of purpose."

## Prairie Star District Seeks Workshop Applications

Prairie Star District is seeking workshop applications for the PSD Annual Conference 2011, "It Matters What We Believe," to be held April 8-10 in Des Moines, Iowa. Our conference theme comes from a favorite reading in our hymnal (#657) by a beloved UU religious educator, Sophia Lyon Fahs. It begins, "Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness and the feeling of being especially privileged. Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies." Workshops are sought that respond directly to this theme, or will foster leadership development and grow our UU community through multigenerational conversation. Information about the Conference and copies of the application are at <http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2011/AnnualConference2011>. Deadline to apply is September 27, 2010.

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# COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

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## August Group Meetings

**Men's Retirement Group:** Monday, August 9 and 23 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

**Unity Singles Group:** Events TBA. Contact: Bonnie Reiland at [bonniereiland@aol.com](mailto:bonniereiland@aol.com)

**A New Look at the Bible:** First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

**Afterthoughts:** Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

**Unity Men's Group:** Events TBA. Contact: Nels Otto at 651-484-4590

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

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

**Unity Bridge Club:** First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Mary Barrett at 651-225-9708

**Evergreen Quilt Group:** Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

**Unity Book Club:** Tuesday, August 10, at 7:00 p.m. Open to everyone!

**Job Transition Networking Group:** Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Wendy Frieze at [wendyfrieze@mac.com](mailto:wendyfrieze@mac.com)

## Whole Farm Coop

Buy meat, cheese, produce and more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up at Unity Church! Order from [wholefarmcoop.com](http://wholefarmcoop.com) or call 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, August 11. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, August 18.

## Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. Donations can be brought anytime and should be placed in the barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances.

## Unity Men's Group

Unity Men is kicking off its 2010-11 season on Thursday, September 9, with a guest presenter from the Twin Cities Men's Center, Jim Lovestar. Jim began his exploration of "what it means to be a man" by joining the Marine Corps in 1968. Since then he's presented workshops at local and national men's conferences and served as chairman of the board of the TC Men's Center, is a leader in the Mankind Project and is very active in Boys to Men. His subject is: The hidden cost of male privilege. Men have power and men have pain. In this interactive workshop we will explore both sides of male privilege.

Topics for the remainder of the calendar year include:

October: In Search of Male Spirituality

November: Movie night, tentatively "The Invention of Lying"

December: Sharing of holiday stories

## Unity Church Book Club

The Unity Church Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10. The book they will be discussing is *Nomad Diaries* by Yasmeen Maxamuud. **Everyone is welcome — even if you haven't read the book!**

### Future dates and selections:

September 14: *Claiming the City* by Mary Lethert Wingerd

October 12: *Day* by A.L. Kennedy

## Caregivers Group

**Thursday, August 19 • Noon–2:00 p.m.**

Are you a part-time or full-time caretaker of loved ones in your life? Do you need support in order to sustain the care you are giving? Join Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and Pastoral Care Team member Cynthia Orange for an informal support group for caregivers. Contact Janne Eller-Isaacs if you would like to participate in this group.

## A Wave in the Mind: OPEN PAGE Summer Session

**Tuesday, August 24, Faith in a Seed**

**7:00–9:00 p.m. • Unity Church • Pre-registration required; \$25/each**

Virginia Woolf said that writing is a matter of being attuned to a larger rhythm and movement. It begins, she said, when "a sight, an emotion, creates this wave in the mind, long before it makes words to fit it." Our task in writing, she continued, is to set that wave moving again. This summer writing session offers an opportunity to catch and ride this wave in the mind. **E-mail pre-registration is required (to [karen@unityunitarian.org](mailto:karen@unityunitarian.org)) by one week prior to the session.** Registration fees are payable at the door.

## Summit-University Planning Council Elections

If you live in the neighborhood, support Unity Church's continued presence on the Summit-University Planning Council by voting on Saturday, September 11, in the SUPC board election. Cast your vote at the SUPC table at the Selby Avenue Jazz Festival (Selby and Milton, 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.). You must live within the SUPC boundaries (Summit to University, Lexington to Marion). Your vote counts!

## Boston Pilgrimage • October 23–28, 2010

You are invited to join our ministers for a pilgrimage to the Unitarian Universalist holy sites! We'll visit Plimouth Plantation, Harvard Divinity School, the Oracles of Concord, Walden Pond and the historic churches of Boston. There will be time for sightseeing as well as conversation and reflection. More information including cost and accommodations to come! If you are interested in participating in this pilgrimage, please contact Song Thao at the Church Office to have your name added to the list.

# MUSIC MINISTRY / PARISH HALL ARTIST / UNITY LIBRARIES

## 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](mailto: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 19, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Foote Room. Kathleen Radspinner, director

**Unity Choir** (adult, high school and beyond) - Thursday, September 9, 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 14, 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 that meets for a few rehearsals and then performs once in our services. We will meet from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m., December 5 and December 19, singing at the December 19, 4:30 p.m. service. Come and enjoy preparing and singing some wonderful holiday music!

**"Walk-in" Choir** (adult, high school and beyond) - An opportunity for those that would love to sing but just cannot make choir rehearsals. Come and meet together for a 45 minute rehearsal, then sing in our 4:30 service! It could be a folk song with guitar, a round, an African call & response, etc. Rehearsal at 3:30 p.m., and sing at the 4:30 p.m. service which follows! Come and join us on the following dates: Sunday, September 26; Sunday, October 24; Sunday, November 19.

## August Parish Hall Artist

### Kathleen Krishnan

Kathleen Krishnan paints in oils as a way to visually explore the human psyche. She is drawn to the unstated expression of people's minds by the way they move or the gestures they use. She particularly likes moments between interactions that seem to be introspective.

Although Krishnan does use real objects, models and nature for reference material, what truly interests her is the designing of original works using visual memories or personally meaningful themes which are strong enough in mood to be expressed on canvas. Her paintings are a melding of invention, memory and observation.

Krishnan prefers having her studio at home. "I am inspired by things I see around me in my home - the flowers out the window, the curve of an arm chair, patterns of light on a wall. All of these raw materials can be incorporated into my compositions as needed to create visual paths that move the eye around the canvas."

Krishnan is a member of The Minnesota Artists Association. In addition to her original compositions she also takes commissions for portraits.

[www.kathleenkrishnan.com](http://www.kathleenkrishnan.com)  
[kathleenkrishnan@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenkrishnan@gmail.com)

**time flies like an arrow.**

**fruit flies like a banana. -groucho marx**

Hard to believe, but fall is almost upon us. The Unity Bookstall is in **urgent** need of a manager. If you have ever wanted to run your own bookstore (or even if you haven't), here is your chance to serve your church in a fun and creative way. Please call Barbara Hubbard ASAP. Thanks.



### The Unity Library Team

Anderson Library ♦ Whitman Children's Library  
Bookstall ♦ Bookmobile ♦ Cairns Literary Journal

## Now Accepting Submissions!

**Cairns**  
The Unity  
Church Journal  
of the Arts  
Vol. 2, Fall 2010



**Deadline: Sept. 20, 2010**

You contribute.  
We publish.  
The congregation is enriched.

*the unity pledge team and library team present*

**A Special  
Cafè Unity  
featuring  
Meg Barnhouse**



**Minister, Writer, Humorist,  
Singer, Songwriter,  
Columnist for uuworld.org**

*it is a holy thing to be heard, to be touched,  
to laugh and plot mischief and tell awful  
jokes... to sit with friends, stirring milk into  
coffee, giving stirring speeches, stirring  
things up until you are an ingredient in the  
recipe of one another's lives.*

*--meg barnhouse, the best of radio free bubba*

**FRIDAY, SEPT 24, 2010  
7:00 P.M.**



# MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## Unity Leads General Assembly Multigenerational Worship

Many thanks to all the Unity Church folks who made our General Assembly Multigenerational Worship a success! People of all ages created puppets, showed up for rehearsals, and participated in the processional and storytelling for our service about the power of communal singing. Special thanks to Mary Jo Nikolai, Mike Huber and Elizabeth Giffin for their tireless work teaching puppet crafting and adding all the final touches that made the animal puppets a spectacular sacred element of our worship. The congregation will have an opportunity to see these puppets in action (and to thank Mary Jo, Mike and Elizabeth) at our Merging of Waters service on September 12.



*Unity Church families and friends worked hard getting the puppets ready for General Assembly's Multigenerational Worship.*

*The finished puppets were amazingly beautiful! Multigenerational Worship photos courtesy of Nancy Pierce/UUA.*

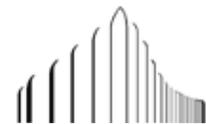
**Uh, oh!**

## Missed 2010-11 Religious Education Registration?

Not to worry: join us on Wednesday, September 1, at 7:00 p.m. for Parent Orientation and Registration. This will be the full orientation for new families and the only opportunity for returning families to register in time for the start of R.E. on September 19. Childcare provided. Spaces remain in many classes but some classes at specific services are already filled to capacity. Please come with a flexible, open spirit!

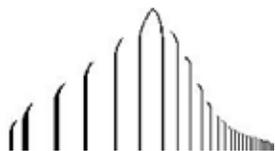
## New Junior High R.E. Class Open at 11:00 a.m.

Unity Church parents are collaborating to start an additional class for grades 6, 7 and 8 during fall semester: "Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth." Classical mythology, Star Wars and other books and films from popular youth culture will serve as sources for understanding the importance of myth in human history. The class is limited to 14 students. If your youth is interested in enrolling in or switching to this section at 11:00 a.m., please contact Kerri at the Church Office. Note that sections for younger siblings of enrolled youth may not have parallel openings.



**commUNITY** is the newsletter of Unity Church-Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 14th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30 per year.

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## UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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**TIME SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL**

### Merging of Waters

**Be sure to collect water from your journeys (or backyard!) this summer!**

Watch for details about this special Family Sunday on September 12.

### Religious Education Begins

**Sunday, September 19, 2010**

See page 7 for information about an upcoming parent orientation.

### Fifth Annual Unity Church New Orleans Pilgrimage

**Join with other members and friends of Unity Church for the fifth annual New Orleans Pilgrimage from November 6-13, 2010.**

Five years after the hurricanes and flooding of the city, there is much rebuilding that still needs to happen. This sojourn will continue some hands-on assistance in rebuilding housing (all building skill levels are welcome) in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and opportunities to enjoy the unique history, food and culture of this great American city. We will also take time to reflect on what such a journey means for people in New Orleans and for our own spiritual lives as well. If you are interested in participating or learning more about this pilgrimage, please contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

### The Wheel of Life

#### In Celebration

**Kerri Meyer and Jen Blecha**  
married

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Kerri and Jennifer offer heartfelt thanks to the entire congregation for the outpouring of love and support on the occasion of their marriage.

Congratulations to **Unity's Evergreen Quilters** who won 3rd prize at the Annual Minnesota Quilters Show with their raffle quilt "Sounds of Spring."

Congratulations to Unity Church member **Martha Eaves** who was awarded the Greg Horan Lifetime Achievement Award by the St. Paul Area Coalition for the Homeless for her longtime work on homelessness issues.

#### In Memoriam

**Janice Marie Crandall Hogan**  
September 22, 1939 – June 13, 2010