

commUNITY

Vol. 34, No. 11

Unity Church—Unitarian

August 2011

August Worship Calendar

One Sunday service will be held each week at 10:00 a.m., through September 4. Throughout August, Sunday services are led by members of Unity Church. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

August 7: *A Holy Yes* — Jeanne Barker-Nunn

Taking as a text Natalie Goldberg's observation that "Our task is to say a holy yes to the real things of our lives as they exist," Jeanne and Worship Associate Mike Huber will explore why actually doing this is often so difficult, and what can help us engage and even embrace all that life brings our way.

August 14: *Hole in the Bowl* — Jenny Wilson

When we experience deep loss, we may detach from others in an attempt to protect ourselves from further suffering. Poet and philosopher Mark Nepo refers to this detachment as a spiritual disease, stating "as soon as we separate what cannot be separated, we start to suffer". However, he argues, "the love we show saves the love we hide." Join Jenny Wilson and Worship Associate Dutton Foster as they explore the scarcity that we create in our minds and the role of faith and community in the work of healing.

August 21: *The Answer is "42"* — Richard Foushé

We are told in the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* that the answer 'To Life, the Universe, Everything' is "42". The logical next step is to find the question.

There are many questions we can ponder in life but none more penetrating than that offered by Rumi. At the end of one of his poems he writes the piercing question: "Who are you really, wanderer?"

We all think we can answer that question. After all, we have lived with our "self" all our life. But can we answer it? Are there alternatives to consider—views that may well enrich our life by taking us beyond the confines of our narrow view of self?

Join worship leader Richard Foushé and Worship Associate Margaret Walker and explore who you are and who you might really be.

August 28: *Can Hamlet's example help us grow?* — Dutton Foster

How can Shakespearean tragedy illuminate our own personal journeys? We may not be a royal prince seeking revenge as instructed by his father's ghost, but most of us learn at some point that our gifts and strengths carry a dark side as well: we experience moments of overconfidence leading to missteps and setbacks, engendering painful but important realizations and growth. Dutton Foster and Worship Associate Carol LeBourveau explore the positive messages we can extract from Hamlet and other great, doomed fictional protagonists as they grope their way passionately through the fog of existence.

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 11.

Boston Pilgrimage

October 26–30, 2011

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.

The approximate cost will be \$1200 exclusive of airfare. If you are interested in participating in this pilgrimage, please contact Song Thao at the Church Office (song@unityunitarian.org) to have your name added to the list.

Flowers for August Worship

If you would like to bring flowers from your garden for a 10:00 a.m. August worship service, please contact Julie at the Church Office at julieh@unityunitarian.org. The flowers need to be arranged in a vase and placed in the chancel by 9:15 a.m. on the Sunday you select.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / WHEEL OF LIFE

Board of Trustees

from Rob Fulton, chair

Summertime and Unity Church pauses—for refreshing our lives in summer pasttimes; for spending more time in the garden; for enjoying our families and the long evenings; for readying ourselves for the beginning of fall that brings the school season and the church season.

The Board of Trustees is busy even during the summer. We are preparing for the big decisions that need to be made on Unity Tomorrow in August and September. We are beginning to recruit for another class of trustees. We are carefully reviewing the church's budget especially as summer time brings a drop off on the payment of regular pledges. (A gentle reminder to send in your monthly pledge even if you are taking off the summer from services.)

The Board is watching closely the Unity Tomorrow process. How are the costs of the renovations shaping up? How likely is a new sanctuary going to be, considering our potential to raise funds? How well is the capital campaign coming along? How much more are we likely to raise after the quiet phase is completed? The Board met in July and will meet again in August to address some of these critical issues.

It is a challenging time for Unity Church. The Executive Team will be stretched and stressed as the big decisions about renovation and expansion have to be made as well as the already busy schedule that awaits them come mid-August. The large number of church members who are serving on the Unity Tomorrow committees will be asked to step up their activities. New and old teachers will need to be recruited for the religious education program and Coming of Age mentors will be asked by ninth graders to help them in the 2011-12 process. The choirs will begin preparing for regular services come late August.

So enjoy the summer, early sunrises, warm and even some hot days, late evenings of daylight and be prepared to step up to a busy fall and winter at Unity Church.

Spiritual Practice for Teachers

Saturday, September 24

9:00–Noon • Unity Church

Unitarian and American public education reformer Horace Mann said, "A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on a cold iron."

Inspiring students to learn requires managing complex curricula, multifaceted relationships, and finite resources. It's hard not to take the pressures—and work—home at night. So how do teachers find inspiration, time for reflection, and a deeper connection to this important work? Spiritual practice can be genuinely helpful. And the good news is that a spiritual practice can make more time than it takes. Rob Eller-Isaacs is offering a three hour workshop designed especially for professional educators.

Cost: Pledging: Free // Non Pledging: \$50.00

Registration is required. Please contact Martha Tilton by email at martha@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x105 to register.

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Anders Ole Reppe

Born one more redeemer

May 21, 2011

to parents Ann and Tom Reppe
and grandparents

Harold and Emily Reppe

Ruby Jacqueline DeLong

Born one more redeemer

June 6, 2011

to parents

Abby Moore and Steve DeLong,
big brother Wyatt,

grandparents Betsy and Jim Moore
and the late Jacqueline DeLong

In Memoriam

David Abbott Byfield

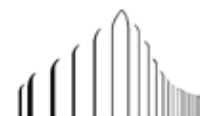
May 16, 1940 — June 8, 2011

August Parish Hall Artist

John Koch

Print making is my medium. The outdoors and the woods it creates is the foundation of my work. They provide me with the subject and images that inspire me along with the materials I use and with the techniques I employ.

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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HALLMAN INTERN / STAFF DIRECTORY

Meet Rachel Long

Unity's 2011-12 Hallman Ministerial Intern



When I was three years old, my grandmother passed away. Curious child that I was, her passing prompted me to ask questions. I asked my parents, "Why does Jesus get to come back to life and grandma doesn't?" This question caught my parents off guard. We weren't a church-going family. We didn't talk about Jesus. My question made my parents realize that they needed to teach my brother and me something about religion, because clearly we were learning someone's religion. They started church shopping. The church they chose was the starting point of my journey with Unitarian Universalism.

This journey includes religious education and the youth group at Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Church, just north of Seattle. This journey includes attending a number of UU churches as I ping-ponged across the country in my early adulthood. This journey includes two years of volunteer work in Serbia, where my call to the ministry took on a new urgency. This journey includes studying at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. I am excited that the next stop on this religious journey is Unity Church—Unitarian.

I come to Unity Church excited to learn from all of the good things that are happening in this community. I come eager to see how the things they teach in seminary work outside the classroom. I also come to Unity Church with my fiancé, Brian, a Brooklyn Park native who is a chef and brewer and is excited to be back in the Twin Cities.

I look forward to meeting you and hearing about the questions and journeys that have shaped your life.

Unity Church Staff

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FELLOWSHIP / SPIRITUAL PRACTICE / COMMUNITY

Fellowship Groups

These fellowship groups are open to all. Please contact the person listed for more information.

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, August 8 and 22, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

Unity Singles: Contact: Bonnie Reiland at bonniereiland@aol.com

A New Look at the Bible: Second 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: Third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. 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 Quilters: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

Unity Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. See ad at right for book titles. All are welcome!

Job Transition/Networking: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact Rachel Holtzer, Facilitator, at erholtzer@gmail.com

Zen Meditation Practice is Growing at Unity Church

Last year, a group of Unity Church members formed a weekly Zen meditation group called Unity Sangha. (Sangha means "association" or "community" in Pali.) By the end of the church year, the group was strong in attendance and commitment and was ready to take the next step...

It is with great excitement that Unity Sangha, in collaboration with the ministerial staff of Unity Church, announces a new ongoing partnership with Ken Ford to provide teaching and leadership to those at Unity who practice and/or are interested in Zen meditation. Ken is a teacher at Clouds in Water Zen Center in St. Paul; he is also a former music director at Unity Church.

Unity Sangha meets on Tuesday evenings, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The group is lay-led and welcoming. Ken will often be in attendance to participate and provide instruction, as needed. There is no cost for this weekday sitting; all are welcomed and encouraged to attend. (Newcomers, please try to arrive 15 minutes early.)

The Sangha will also offer weekend opportunities throughout the year. Be on the lookout for more information about these half-day Saturday sessions. Happy sitting!

Job Transition/Networking Group

Meets every Monday • 9:30–11:30 a.m.

The Job Transition Networking Group was created to offer support, encouragement, information, and skill-building resources to Unity Church members who are unemployed or underemployed. For more information contact Rachel Holtzer, Facilitator, at erholtzer@gmail.com.

Unity Church Book Club

Everyone is welcome — even if you haven't read the book!

The Unity Church Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9. The book they will be discussing is *The Spanish Bow* by Andromeda Romano-Lax. On September 13 they will discuss *Empires of the Sea* by Roger Crowley.

Living With Grief Group

Tuesday, August 16 • Third Tuesday of the month • 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs will offer a group for people living with grief and loss. All are welcome to come to discuss issues related to the grieving process. Please contact Janne by email at janne@unityunitarian.org if you are interested in attending. Drop-ins are welcome as well, but please contact the Christy Randall by email at christy@unityunitarian.org to request childcare.

Caregivers Group

Thursday, August 18 • Third Thursday of the month • 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 by email at janne@unityunitarian.org if you would like to participate in this group.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 24
Spiritual Practice for Teachers
9:00 a.m.–Noon • Unity Church • See page 2 for more information.

LITERARY MINISTRY / CAIRNS

Writing As Spiritual Practice Upcoming Literary Programs

OPEN PAGE: reflecting with pens in hand

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

August

Open Page writing sessions will not be offered in August but will resume in September.

Sunday, September 11, 1:00–3:00 p.m. NOTE DIFFERENT TIME!

Reflection Topic: Hospitality

Unity Church-Unitarian

Free; RSVP karen@unityunitarian.org

Hospitality, Henri Nouwen said, creates emptiness that is friendly, “a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy.” In times often defined by territorial behavior and a landscape fenced off by unbending opinions, how can the practice of hospitality create free and open space where we might meet one another and become friends? Registration not required, but an e-mail to karen@unityunitarian.org is requested to help in planning space and handouts.

Lectio Divina

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

Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it “spiritual reading.” Others following a sixth century Benedictine practice call it “*lectio divina*” or holy reading. Both names describe a reflective practice of meditating on the written word and listening for “what is found there” by each reader and listener. *Lectio divina* sessions at Unity Church will resume this fall, beginning in October. Often reflecting on poetry introduced in worship, the sessions will be led weekly between the Sunday morning services. For more information, contact Literary Minister Karen Hering or watch the upcoming newsletters for details.

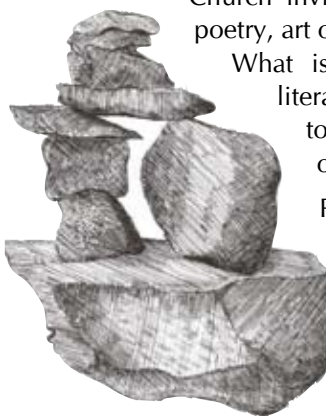
Other Programming and Resources

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

Cairns: The Unity Church Journal of the Arts

from Louise Merriam, *Cairns* Editorial Board

You may have seen flyers on bulletin boards around Unity Church inviting you to submit your prose, poetry, art or musical composition to *Cairns*.



What is *Cairns*? It is Unity Church’s literary journal, now looking forward to its third issue, due out in the fall of 2011.

People who attend services at Unity Church know that music, poetry and prose are integral parts of our worship. Those who wander into the Parish Hall after services see the often-changing art and photography displays. Each

of these forms of expression is part of who we are as a church and as a faith. *Cairns* exists to capture and share the creative spark that resides in all of us, adding to the richness of our lives together.

Why is our journal called *Cairns*? A cairn is a pile of rocks arranged without mortar that serves as a guidepost or a marker. Some are prehistoric, others are modern. Although they are thought to signify a property line, a summit, a landmark, or a grave, no one knows precisely why our ancestors placed cairns in what are today out-of-the-way places. However, we do know is that these piles of stones had meaning and that they often marked or pointed the way toward other meaningful places.

We believe that Unity’s literary journal performs a similar function: Each page has meaning; each page points toward something equally meaningful. It could be a conversation, a silent appreciation of the beauty of words, or a great big belly laugh. *Cairns* guides its readers to many places.

You contribute. We publish. The congregation is enriched.

We invite you – yes, you – to submit your work to *Cairns* for the next issue. You do not need to be a professional writer, artist or composer to submit material. Many contributors to the first two issues were published for the first time in *Cairns* and all are welcome. The members of the editorial board are honored by the trust that the writers, artists, poets and musicians of our community place in us and we review each submission carefully.

**To learn more about contributing to *Cairns*,
please visit our web page at
<http://www.unityunitarian.org/literary-journal.html>.**

UNITY TOMORROW

Unity Tomorrow

Current Site Team Update

The Current Site Team has been busy working with Paul May and associates from Miller Dunwiddie Architecture in the schematic design phase of the *Unity Tomorrow* process. The Team has divided the schematic design phase into three groups as a way to prioritize the possibilities based on the amount of money raised during the capital campaign:

Essential Infrastructure

- Fire suppression
- Codes upgrades and ADA access
- Heating, ventilating, air conditioning and electrical upgrades
- Roof and window repair

Improvements

- Unified central entrance, gallery and courtyard
- Better way-finding
- New, larger bathrooms
- Renovated kitchen

Expanded Capacity

- Central gathering space/great hall
- New, larger sanctuary

Members of the Capital Campaign Team have been meeting with church members and friends throughout the summer. The early results are very encouraging. At this point, paying for essential infrastructure requirements is assured. Raising enough to complete the improvements is quite possible. However, expanded capacity will take a stretch commitment from every household during the capital campaign in order to become a reality.

As schematic design continues, so does the planning to keep the congregation informed. Congregational Forums, Neighborhood Information Sessions, and Project Management Orientation Sessions are all being scheduled. The Communications Team is developing strategies for monthly, weekly, and daily updates regarding decisions and process. The Capital Campaign and Operating Pledge Teams are working together to make the process of canvassing for both capital commitments and operating budget pledges this fall easy and seamless (and fun!) for everyone (see page 5).

More information about facilities planning and the *Unity Tomorrow* process to-date, is available online at www.unitytomorrow.org. Questions, comments, feedback, and input are always welcome by email at unitytomorrow@unityunitarian.org or by filling out the online form available at <http://www.unitytomorrow.org/e-mail-feedback.html>.



Meet Lorelee Wederstrom Unity's Owner's Representative

The Current Site Team is pleased to announce that church member Lorelee Wederstrom has agreed to serve as Unity's Owner's Representative.

Lorelee will advocate for Unity Church and oversee the work with the architects, engineers, and contractors. Lorelee has over 30 years experience in capital project planning and delivery at Regions Hospital and the University of Minnesota Health Sciences Center. Lorelee sings with Unity Singers and has been a member of Unity Church since 2004.



www.unitytomorrow.org

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

It Takes a Community

2012 Operating Pledge Drive and *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign

from Dan Huelster, Pledge Team Member

A memory from childhood: sometime after the Fourth of July, my mother would announce, with a bit of resignation that summer was over. The days were getting shorter, and autumn couldn't be too far off. To me, this meant that summer vacation would soon end, and that simply couldn't be.

Planning a pledge drive sometimes feels this way. What seems far off is soon around the corner. The Pledge Team has been busy this summer getting ready for what is, indeed, just around the corner: the time of the year when we as a church community talk about our financial gifts. Here is an update for what's going to happen this fall.

This year, we're asking for your support on two initiatives:

The 2012 Operating Pledge Drive, and, The *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign

These two campaigns will be conducted concurrently under one thematic message: *It Takes a Community*. You'll get information about the importance of supporting the church's annual operating budget and the capital campaign, and you'll have the chance to make your commitment to both at the same time.

We will kick off the campaign on Sunday, October 9, when Unity Church hosts the Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian, Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. Leader of a progressive congregation whose "members are drawn into passionate engagement with the social concerns of our times," Reverend Gertmenian will offer a perspective on what it means to be a large, liberal congregation in an urban setting.

Opportunities to Participate

The past few years we've tried what we term "an every member canvass," one that emphasizes face-to-face meetings with conversation about one's commitment to Unity Church. This is a laudable yet logistically elusive goal. However, the reality is that every canvass *is* an every-member canvass. We always aim to reach all members and sustaining friends of Unity Church—Unitarian, be it in person, on the phone, via the mail, or now electronically.

And, this year we have planned some new options for considering and making your pledge. Whether you like big events or small-group gatherings, personal reflection or interactive Q&A, there's something for you!

Unity Tonight

New this year will be *Unity Tonight*, a cabaret of talents and testimonials, music and inspirations, held in the Parish Hall on Fridays, October 14, 21, and 28. Each of these evenings will have its own flavor, from the jazz of Laura Caviani to the vocalizing of Ruth MacKenzie, and finally a "homegrown talent" night featuring the Unity Singers, amongst others. Join us for one of these evenings when you make your pledge in the company of those who share the values of our liberal faith.

Families and Friends

Perhaps you would like to attend a dinner supporting a local restaurant. Or, get together with friends at smaller gatherings, hosted by church members who will open their homes for questions and conversation. An event geared toward families with young children is also in the works. If you prefer to be canvassed individually, we have canvassers ready to meet with you.

3/3/3

The 2012 Operating Pledge Drive and the Capital Campaign will operate in tandem this fall. When the canvass begins in October we will be asking you to...

- Commit to a sustaining **three**-year operating pledge to see the church through the *Unity Tomorrow* process
- Consider a minimum **three**-percent increase to the operating pledge in the second and third year of the pledge
- Make a *Unity Tomorrow* Capital Campaign commitment that would be paid over **three** years (or less)

It Takes a Community...

...to worship together

...to celebrate our joys

... to honor our memories

... to be racially healing

... to raise our children

...to be radically hospitable

... to keep the lights on

... to live our values

...to grow our future.

Unity Church is this community, and through living lives of integrity, service and joy, our voice is sustained and heard.

Come September, look for our presence in the Parish Hall, and sign up for one of the pledging events in October. We can hardly wait to greet you.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

August Sunday Offering Recipients

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

August 7: Microgrants is a Twin Cities nonprofit that gives small grants to selected low-income persons for training, classes, equipment, tools, or other means of assistance to follow their goals and achieve a better standard of living. Unity Church member Phil Morton provides computer support for the Microgrants program.

August 14: Northwest Youth and Family Services (NYFS) is a nonprofit social service and mental health agency serving residents of northern and southern Ramsey county since 1976. Its mission is to prepare youth and families for healthy lives, touching over 4,000 individuals annually. NYFS provides a mental health outpatient clinic, several educational and support groups, and general community social service functions for several metro communities. NYFS offers one-to-one support programs for individuals in need, from mental health counseling to chore services for senior citizens who want to live independently. Unity Church members Mark and Cynthia Stange have been active in several aspects of NYFS over the years with Mark currently serving on the development committee.

August 21: Hamm Clinic provides 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 28: Friends of Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County develops park trails and works to preserve parks, open space, and urban forests. Over the last 25 years, their accomplishments include stopping park land development, establishing park commissions, promoting an annual tree sale that has placed over 6,000 trees in parks, removing buckthorn on the Mississippi River, restoring Pickerel Lake, and installing a safe bikeway trail on the 1-35E bridge over the river. Unity member Marsha Soucheray has served on the Friends board for about 15 years and as board president for one year. Unity Church member Kathy Stack is the current president.

Offering Recipient Criteria

The Unity Church Generosity Ministry Team and the Executive Team developed the following 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 towards 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.

If you would like to nominate an organization, please fill out an Offering Recipient Nomination Form available online at <http://www.unityunitarian.org/generosity-ministry.html> and return it to Pat Haff in the Church Office.

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.



Whole Farm Coop



Buy meat, cheese, produce and more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up at Unity Church! Order from www.wholefarmcoop.com or

call 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, August 10. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, August 17.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY / ARTS & CHALICE CAMP

Mark your calendars!!

The sixth Unity Church New Orleans Pilgrimage will take place from November 6 through 12, 2011. The pilgrimage includes a hands-on building project and programming that focuses on the historical, cultural and political aspects of this unique and amazing city. There will be opportunities to hear from residents who are playing important roles in the reemergence of the city after the devastating flood following Katrina. Each of these journeys includes regular times set aside for reflection on the pilgrimage experience. For more information, contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

This summer during **Arts Camp** and **Chalice Camp**, campers explored Unity's community through stories, art, food, adventures, and service projects — all while enjoying summertime fun!



MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Missed 2011-12 Religious Education Registration?

Not to worry: join us on Wednesday, September 7, 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 18. 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 and a sense of where your own skills can be put to work in our shared ministry!

If you missed registration for Our Whole Lives or Coming of Age and would like your youth to participate this fall, contact Luke Stevens-Royer by email at luke@unityunitarian.org for information and materials. Contact Luke soon to make sure to reserve a spot in either program!

Summer in the Garden: Bountiful Blessings!

Thanks to the leadership of Anna Newton and the dedication of our summer parent volunteers, our garden is yielding a bounty of good food that will be shared with our homebound elderly neighbors. All summer long, we've tended the garden, learned about the plants and the other living creatures that share our greenspace and enjoyed one another's company. Anna Newton has submitted a proposal that will allow for similar gardening opportunities in conjunction with the possible Sanctuary expansion onto the current greenspace on Portland Avenue. Nature is an important source of joy and wisdom, evidenced by the experiences our church children have shared this summer. Stop by the children's "Farmers' Market" in the Parish Hall on Sundays during August!



During Summer in the Garden, Unity's children and youth learn about plants and the other living creatures that share our greenspace while enjoying one another's company.

Unity Church is Hiring! Classroom Buddies Needed for Our Children with Special Needs

A Classroom Buddy is a consistent, reliable person who helps the child with special needs feel safe, comfortable and welcome at Unity Church.

Many of our Religious Education students have special needs which affect their mobility, communication, self-care, social interactions and personal safety; these needs are not barriers to participation in Sunday School or the life of the church, but rather challenges which need appropriate support. The Classroom Buddy will form a trusting relationship with one child and his or her family, providing help with moving from space to space, changing activities, recognizing personal space, participating in discussion, meeting new people, integrating new or unusual experiences of sound/touch/smell/taste, and following directions.

Children with special needs are enrolled in Religious Education programs at all three services, 9:00, 11:00 and 4:30. Requirements include availability on Sundays, absolute reliability and punctuality, experience working with preschool and school-aged children, and a patient, calm demeanor. For a complete job description and application information, visit the church website or contact Kerri Meyer in the Religious Education office.

Parents of College Students!

Please update your college youth's current mailing address with the church so that we can stay in touch! Email luke@unityunitarian.org with contact information and we'll update the church directory.

MUSIC MINISTRY / WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY COOKING TEAMS

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. 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 18, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Foote Room. Kathleen Radspinner, director

Unity Choir (adult, high school and beyond): Thursday, September 8, 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): Tuesday, September 13, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. This choir works to create a particular ensemble balance of 16 singers. **If you are interested in auditioning to sing with the Unity Singers for some projects this year, please contact Ruth Palmer as soon as possible!** 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. **Please let Ruth know of your interest in the Carmina Singers.** Check *commUNITY* every month for dates and announcements.

"Walk-in" Choir (adult, high school and beyond) - An opportunity for those who 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 or combined project with other choirs! It could be a folk song with guitar, a round, an African call and response, etc. **Please let Ruth know of your interest in the "Walk-in" Choir.** Check *commUNITY* every month for dates and announcements.

Women's Ensemble: This originates with the group of women who worked with Ruth at the last Women's Retreat in January 2011. Let's build on this experience! **Please let Ruth know of your interest in the Women's Ensemble.** We will rehearse at specific, short-term announced dates for particular times to sing. Check *commUNITY* every month for dates and announcements.

The Work of Our Hands

On Wednesday evening throughout the church year, the members and friends of Unity Church gather for food and fellowship. We gather for fellowship to nurture the work of our hearts—to nourish the spiritual journey of lightness and peace. We gather for food to nourish the work of our hands—to nourish the earthly journey of justice and grace. Of course, the work of our hearts and the work of our hands are inseparable. Yet, we find ourselves in the middle of a challenge and the work of our hands requires our attention.

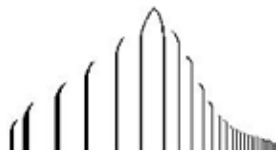
Wellspring Wednesday needs a group of ten to fifteen volunteers to lend a few hours a month (three to five hours) to Unity to help to make Wellspring Wednesday sustainable. These volunteers would commit to serving on cooking teams organized by a capable leader. Tasks would be assigned according to the gifts of the volunteers and teams would be created in order to make Wellspring Wednesday a continuing success. It may sound like the work of the hands but it can be so much more than that. Truly, it is the work of our hearts as well. Won't you join us?

If you can offer just a few hours a month, please contact Leon Dunkley by email at leon@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x107.



Calling All Singers!

Interested in Carmina Singers, "Walk-in" Choir and Women's Ensemble? We would love to have you sing with Unity Choir, Unity Singers, Children's Choir and Youth Ensemble on Sunday, September 25 at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. Rehearsals will be Sunday, September 18, from 10:15–10:45 a.m. in Robbins Parlor. Warm-up rehearsal with all choirs on Sunday, September 25, from 8:00–8:40 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN


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**TIME SENSITIVE
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**You won't
be
bored.**



**You may just
be astounded.**

The Bookstall
Open Sunday mornings
in the Parish Hall.

Anderson Library
Whitman Children's Library
Open Sunday all day, upstairs in the Eliot Wing.

Pictures online at: Awesome People Reading

**Religious Education Begins
Sunday, September 18, 2011**
See page 10 for information about
an upcoming parent orientation and
registration session.

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