

## Letter from the Board of Trustees From Rob Fulton, Trustee

While we reduce the number of services during the summer, the Board of Trustees continues to meet monthly. At our July meeting, the board toured the *Unity Tomorrow* construction project.

We began on the upper floor where the ceilings have been removed. You can look up to the roof and see that there never was any insulation. A significant insulation addition will be added to this area above the ceilings. This installation will reduce the heat loss through the roof. Following this the vents and sprinkler system will be installed.

On the first floor, ceilings have also been removed for installation of the sprinkler system. The former kitchen has been gutted, all equipment removed, and the walls have been demolished to the cement block.

The biggest renovation is occurring in the lower level. Tile floors have been removed, large holes for ventilation to the upper floors have been cut; new piping for the cooling system and the plumbing has been installed. A newly aligned corridor will lead to the new entrance.

It is much easier to see the exterior work where foundations for the new bathrooms and new entrance are laid out. Masonry restoration is also being done on the existing exterior stone walls.

The parking lot has been closed as water lines for the chiller that will be built on the Holly Avenue side of the lot are being installed. As expected, there are surprises. While digging the trench for the cooler piping, a buried foundation from a house that was formerly on the parking lot was discovered and the foundation material had to be tested prior to its removal. The board was appreciative of the opportunity to see the immense amount of renovation within the facility that goes along with the exterior changes.

Currently each day finds about 30 workers on site. As the project moves along, it is expected that up to 50 workers will be on site. The requirements for minority and women on site workers is being monitored.

The Board of Trustees is also working to better incorporate the Anti-Racism Leadership Team's monitoring process into the board process. A two-day training on institutional racism is set for the end of August with Board, Executive Team and some of the staff.

Each year the Board reviews the current membership. At the June meeting Barbara Hubbard reported that the church has 807 members who have both joined and pledged. There are another 654 who have joined the church in the past and are not pledging. Also there are 195 who are pledging but not officially members and another 78 who are classed as church school members whose children attend religious education. Periodically, these rolls are purged, but due to the office relocation for the construction this is not being done this year.

Finally, we are still looking for people interested in serving on the Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning in November of this year (see the box at right).

*See you in church!*

## 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 2012 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)
- Unity's Mission and Ends
- 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 Rob Fulton at [robfulton@gmail.com](mailto:robfulton@gmail.com) to nominate yourself or to recommend someone else as a candidate for the Board.

# 2013 PLEDGE DRIVE / WHEEL OF LIFE

## Carry It Forward

### The 2013 Pledge Drive Gala Evening

Saturday, October 13, 2012

***A gala evening at Steppingstone Theater including fabulous finger foods, music, and special guest Kevin Kling!***

Join us for an evening to celebrate the vibrancy of our church, a place that challenges us to grow within and share among in a spiritually vital, welcoming community, and reach beyond our church home.

The Annual Pledge Drive maintains and sustains this vital work. While we witness the changes to our beloved building, funded by the Capital Campaign, it is your operating pledge that keeps the lights on, programs humming, and provides us with our incredible staff. For those of you who have made a sustaining pledge, join us on October 13, so we can share our gratitude for your generous commitment. For those of you needing to make a 2013 operating pledge, this evening will be a time to do so.

*"We have a future yet unseen, but so full of promise."*

Unity Church–Unitarian, our church, our home:

***Carry It Forward***

Steppingstone Theater is located just a few blocks from Unity Church on Victoria Street and Holly Avenue. Parking will be available at the William Mitchell College of Law lot. Childcare will be provided.



**Kevin Kling** is best known for his popular commentaries on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. Kling's autobiographical tales are as enchanting as they are true to life: hopping freight trains, getting hit by lightning, performing his banned play in Czechoslovakia, growing up in Minnesota, and eating things before knowing what they are.

Kevin Kling describes his zodiac sign as "Minnesota with Iowa rising..." He grew up in the Minneapolis suburbs of Brooklyn Park and Maple Grove and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater. His storytelling started when a friend from the now defunct Brass Tacks Theatre asked him to perform his stories. Since then, he has been awarded numerous arts grants and fellowships.



### Important Construction Updates

Visit [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) or [www.unitytomorrow.org](http://www.unitytomorrow.org) or call the church office at 651-228-1456 to get up-to-date information about building use and building progress during the *Unity Tomorrow* construction schedule. For information about how to make a capital gift and to see construction progress pictures, please turn to page 7.

### The Wheel of Life

#### In Celebration

**Beckett Howard Wolfgramm**

Born one more redeemer

May 27, 2012

to parents

Audrey and Benjamin Wolfgramm

**Eliana Lea Adelsheim-Marshall**

Born one more redeemer

June 19, 2012

to parents

Millie Adelsheim and Dan Marshall

**Rocio Elizabeth Hernandez**

Born one more redeemer

June 24, 2012

to parents

Mary and Layo Hernandez

### Flowers for Summer Worship

If you would like to bring flowers from your garden for a 10:00 a.m. summer worship service, please contact Julie at the Church Office at [julieh@unityunitarian.org](mailto: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. Sundays in August are still available.

**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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## AUGUST SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Through September 2, Sunday services will be held each week at 10:00 a.m. Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org). During the summer months, access to the Sanctuary will be available each Sunday through the entrance located at the southeast corner of the Sanctuary on Portland Avenue (see photo at right) and through the handicap entrance in the parking lot on the east side of the Eliot wing. An abbreviated coffee hour will be held on the front porch and lawn of the church-owned duplex located at 722 Holly Avenue.



### Worship Calendar

#### August 5:

#### **Questioning the Stories We are Told — Laura Smidzik**

At the Unitarian Universalist Association Justice General Assembly last month several speakers reminded us that not all laws are just—especially when it comes to immigration. Yet we are often fed stories from our childhood into our adult years that appear just and righteous on the surface and fall apart with closer inspection. Laura Smidzik will share her thoughts on stories she has heard and the truth that lies behind them. Musician: Kathleen Radspinner, piano with flutist.

#### August 12: **Choosing Our Stories — Jim Foti**

In a world with billions of worldviews, how do we decide which stories to believe and which to reject? As we listen to the stories of others, how do we act with love and maintain our faithfulness to the truth? Ministerial Intern Jim Foti and worship associate Kathleen Bartholomay will explore these questions in ways playful and profound. Musicians: Caswell/Moonen Family.

#### August 19: **The Color of Water — Richard Foushee**

The Chinese philosopher Chuang Tzu said in the 4th century BCE that “The sound of water says what I think.” Twenty-three centuries later Loren Eiseley wrote “If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.”

We all have been caught in water reverie. Whether it’s a gentle rain, a peaceful brook or stream, the flow of a great river or the surging surf on the strand of a sea there is a pull on our imagination. We are caught by its magic.

Join Richard Foushee and worship associate Sherry Essen in exploring water as a metaphor used in our daily language but also as a metaphor of our spiritual life and path. Musician: Simon Alexander Adams, piano.

#### August 26: **Thank God for Evolution — Michael Dowd**

Michael Dowd shares the “good news” of a mainstream evolutionary worldview, as presented in his book, *Thank God for Evolution*, which has been endorsed by six Nobel laureates and other science luminaries, including noted skeptics, and by religious leaders across the spectrum. Until evolution is preached from the pulpit and taught in religious education classes, Dowd claims, we will never see an end to the science and religion war in America — nor will religion reach its potential to serve humanity and the interdependent web of life in the 21st century. Musician: Alexa Raine-Wright, recorder.

### 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 5: **Unity United for All Families**

The goal of this Unity Church working committee is to help defeat the Minnesota constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage that will be voted on in the November 2012 election. At a congregational meeting in April 2012, the Unity Church congregation passed a unanimous resolution stating their opposition to this amendment. Unity United For All Families is composed of over 150 congregants and friends with members Laura Smidzik and Grant Wacker serving as co-chairs. The proceeds from this offering will go towards the campaigns of Unity Church and Minnesotans United For All Families.

#### August 12: **American Refugee Committee (ARC)**

ARC’s mission is to help refugees around the world through such things as disaster response, micro loans and reproductive health care. This offering will go towards ARC’s work in Somalia. ARC’s approach to Somalia is quite different from its other programs around the world in that they are working with the Somali community in the Twin Cities to fund raise and organize the work in their home country. There are more Somalians in the Twin Cities than in any other city in the U.S. and they are reaching out to schools and other organizations to contribute to their fundraising program. Unity Church members Phil and Madeleine Lowry have supported ARC for over 10 years.

#### August 19 & 26: **Amicus Neighborhood “Circle of Peace”**

Circle of Peace is a neighborhood grassroots organization of peacemakers committed to breaking the cycle of inner city youth violence. This circle was started by Russel Balenger, an employee of Amicus, a Rondo neighborhood resident, and a grandfather to youth living in the community. The peace circle is composed of youth in trouble, parents, grandparents, family and community members that work with Totem Town juvenile offenders. The Circle of Peace has great potential for impacting the community by creating different and more positive relationship with parents, youth in trouble and community members. For over two years, the circle has met once a week at Unity Church and provided dinner hour meals and writing materials to all youth participants to develop their plans for success. Through its community partner, Amicus, the Unity Church Restorative Justice Ministry Team participates and supports this important community initiative.

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# MEET LISA FRIEDMAN / CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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## Meet Lisa Friedman Unity's New Director of Congregational Life



Max Eastman once observed that “a smile is the universal welcome.” By this measure, I can attest to what a warm and welcoming community Unity Church is! Thank you to those of you who have welcomed me into my new position as the Director of Congregational Life and who have helped to me to find my way in the midst of this exciting and adventurous time of churn. It is a joy and a privilege to be here with you.

For those of you whom I have not yet had a chance to meet, I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. I was raised Unitarian Universalist at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, N.Y., and have been a Unitarian Universalist minister for over 16 years. I have served congregations in Illinois, New York, Michigan, and most recently Mankato, Minnesota. I am passionate about the saving message of our faith and about the role of congregational life as the best way to practice and learn how to embody our faith and values in our daily lives. I believe that Unitarian Universalism, at its core, calls us to open our doors to welcome all people, of all backgrounds and ages, who seek our free and responsible way of religion. In this spirit, I look forward to working with you to enrich Unity's ministries of hospitality and spiritual development and to help deepen our spirit of community.

I currently live in Northeast Minneapolis with my husband, Wayne Schneider, and our two sons, Ben and Sam. Wayne works at the Hennepin County Library in IT and Ben and Sam attend the Twin Cities German Immersion School in St. Paul. As a family, we enjoy reading, cooking, urban and outdoor adventures – and baseball in all seasons. We look forward to becoming a part of this community. See you in church!

## Dine with Nine

Are you interested in getting to know more people at Unity Church? Do you enjoy great food and lively conversation? Would you like to help extend the hospitality of our community to both new and long term members alike? Then we invite you to sign up for Dine with Nine (formerly Circle Suppers) this Fall. Beginning in September, small groups of Unity Church members and friends will gather in each other's homes once a month for food and fellowship. With our parish hall and kitchen still under construction, this is a wonderful opportunity to still enjoy a fabulous meal with other Unitarian Universalists! If you are interested in signing up, or have more questions, please email Teresa Wernicke at [teresa475@gmail.com](mailto:teresa475@gmail.com). Please include your contact information and let us know if you would like to sign up for a family or adult only group and whether you have particular location or transportation needs.

## Welcome to Unity: A Class for Newcomers

Sunday, August 19 • 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

If you have been visiting Unity Church this summer and would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, we invite you to join us for a “Welcome to Unity” class led by Rev. Lisa Friedman, Unity's new Director of Congregational Life. Together, we will explore the mission and vision of this church, as well as historical and contemporary Unitarian Universalism. We will also have time to reflect on our own faith journeys and religious questions. This meeting will be held in the church-owned duplex located at 722 Holly Avenue. To sign up, please email [julieh@unityunitarian.org](mailto:julieh@unityunitarian.org). Childcare is available by contacting Christy Randall at [christy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:christy@unityunitarian.org) at least one-week in advance.

## 65-Plus Against the Marriage Amendment

Minnesotans age 65 and over are the most likely age group to support the proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, and the same age group has high voter turnout. So Minnesotans United for All Families has created a program called Senior-to-Senior, in which Minnesotans of retirement age call their peers during daytime hours to talk about the amendment. MN United has reported getting good results in moving these voters toward voting “NO.” A phone bank site has been set up in St. Paul, and training is provided. If you are interested in taking part in this very important work with a group from Unity, please contact Ministerial Intern Jim Foti at [jim@unityunitarian.org](mailto:jim@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x109.

## Join One Voice Mixed Chorus on Stage!

We are Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allies chorus. Auditions for our Fall 2012 season will be held August 27 and September 4. Contact One Voice to schedule your singer-friendly audition! We're especially looking for bass singers so come on out! One Voice rehearses from 7-9:30 p.m. on Monday nights. For a complete performance schedule and audition information visit <http://www.ovmc.org/audition-information.html>.

## Heart to Heart

### A Couples' Enrichment Weekend

Beginning on Friday, November 2, at 7:45 p.m. and continuing through Sunday, November 4, at 4:00 p.m.

Koinonia Retreat Center • Annandale, MN

Heart to Heart is a program led by three experienced couples and is designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. All committed couples are welcome — same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. The cost is \$410 per couple and includes two nights lodging and meals Saturday and Sunday. Financial assistance is available. Space is limited to 15 couples. Sponsored by Unity Church. More information is available at <http://heart.mn.cx> or by calling 651-227-0486.

# MEET DREW DANIELSON / ONGOING GROUPS



## Meet Drew Danielson Unity's New Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministry

Drew Danielson feels he's exactly where he is supposed to be. A seven year stint in advertising and then 20 years in public education prepared him to finally admit that working with youth, specifically on their spiritual and emotional development in a very difficult and manipulative world, is what he really should be doing. This coordinator position with Unity Church is a gift from any number of sources and he is thankful.

OK, I'll drop the florid third person writing and say I've been a part of the Unity Church community for about 13 years. I was long involved with Coming of Age and I currently serve on the Anti-Racism Leadership Team. My wife Betsy Hearn and I have two extraordinarily nice children, Atticus, 9 and Harper, 8. Betsy volunteers with the Young Unitarian Universalist families group and the Religious Education program. We moved into a big old house down the street six years ago, in large part to be in Unity's neighborhood community.

## Merging of Waters

Be sure to collect water from your journeys (or backyard!) this summer. The Merging of Waters service will be held on Sunday, September 9.

## Ongoing Groups at Unity Church

All Unity Church groups have been asked to find alternative meeting spaces throughout the Unity Tomorrow construction schedule. If you are a group leader and are holding meetings off-site, please contact the Church Office with the date, time, and location of the meeting. If you are looking to connect with a group, please visit the church website at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) for meeting information or call the church office at 651-228-1456.

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

**A New Look at the Bible:** Second Thursday of the month (August 9) at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528 for meeting locations during construction.

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

**Caregivers Group:** An informal support group for caregivers. Third Thursday of the month (August 16) from Noon–2:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org). Watch for details about meeting locations.

**Evergreen Quilters:** Second Tuesday of the month (August 14) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and fourth Saturday of the month (August 11) from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760 for meeting locations during construction.

**Grandparent Unitots!:** This group will not meet during construction.

**Lectio Divina or Spiritual Reading:** Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. service. This group will not meet during construction.

**Living With Grief Group:** A group for people living with grief and loss. Third Tuesday of the month (August 21) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: Janne Eller-Isaacs at [janne@unityunitarian.org](mailto:janne@unityunitarian.org). Watch for details about meeting locations.

**Men's Retirement Group:** Monday, August 6 and 20, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578 for meeting locations during construction.

**Unitots!:** A playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Unitots will not meet during construction.

**Unity Book Club:** Second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Jack Hawthorne at [jack.hawthorne@comcast.net](mailto:jack.hawthorne@comcast.net) for meeting locations during construction.

**Unity Bridge Club:** Friday, August 3, at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Priscilla Swartz at 651-454-3209 for meeting locations during construction.

**Zen Meditation:** Find renewal and grounding in the practice of Zen meditation. Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., on the third floor of the church-owned duplex located at 722 Holly Avenue. Contact Ken Ford at [kford5@comcast.net](mailto:kford5@comcast.net)



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# UNITY TOMORROW

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## Unity Tomorrow Update

From Lorelee Wederstrom, Unity's Owner Representative

Six weeks into construction and our Unity Church home is already TOTALLY transformed! As I write this report in mid-July, our site superintendent reported that they are 75% complete with the demolition and that number will most certainly change by the time you read the August edition of *commUNITY*. This part of the transformation has gone very quickly as we have had crews working in all areas of the buildings.

Like most renovation efforts, we've had a few surprises. There was more asbestos than was originally surveyed, sanitary sewer lines below the Sanctuary that needed to be updated and moved once their condition and actual placement was determined during demolition, additional underpinning needed below the Sanctuary buttresses, and rerouting of some ductwork and piping in the lower level hallway to allow for field conditions. The most recent example of this type of discovery was found as we excavated the parking lot to install the new chilled water lines from Janne and Rob's parking spots (future location of the new chiller) into the church. The excavator ran into an old foundation from a previous structure. We are in the process of determining how much of this will need to be removed now. The good news is that the soil is clean and does not require specialized handling for removal. Very soon these kinds of surprises, which are all accounted for in our project contingencies, will subside and we will be able to move even faster in the process of rebuilding what was demolished.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Martha Tilton in preparing a weekly construction update for the congregation. She has so very quickly taken to the understanding of what's happening on our project and is able to communicate that to our community with accurate and timely updates and wonderful photos and video. She attends our weekly progress meetings and routinely dons her hard hat and vest

to get the latest and greatest breaking news of the day on the project. *Thank you, Martha!*

Yesterday, I had the privilege of escorting Unity's Board of Trustees through the construction site. As we stood facing the Sanctuary inside the construction fencing and looked down into the site, we saw the footings being formed for where the new unified entry will be. Suddenly, one could envision more than the nice renderings we've had around us. We could see from the raw framing being built, how the actual curved wall will begin to come out of the ground at the new entrance at the same time the bathroom addition was already being prepared for the brick walls. Soon you will be able to see these new additions take form and become integrated with the existing structures. It's pretty exciting!

While this is happening, however, life at Unity Church is certainly anything but normal! The Sanctuary has been very hot without air conditioning. A 25-ton chiller will be rented and installed this week so that we can return the Sanctuary to a place of comfort while we are under construction. McGough is in the process of updating their schedule now that we are almost through demolition. We will analyze this information in August and begin to understand how this will further impact life at Unity as we know it. In August we will also begin planning for how to re-enter the building as specific parts of the project are completed. We will publish this planning as soon as it is available and will use the September issue of *commUNITY* to spotlight this information. In October's issue, we will give you a budget overview of the project.

*I wish you all a wonderful summer!*



*Thank you to the members and friends of Unity Church—Unitarian who through their generous donations to the Unity Tomorrow Capital Campaign are making it possible to update and restore this beloved church building for generations to come.*

**Help us reach our \$8,000,000 goal!**

If you would like to make a new commitment or increase your current commitment to the Unity Tomorrow Capital Campaign, please visit [unitytomorrow.org](http://unitytomorrow.org) or contact the Church office at 651-228-1456.

*A financial commitment to the Capital Campaign has many benefits including...*



**...insulation!**



**...safe and beautiful classroom spaces for our children and youth.**



**...additional and updated bathrooms and plumbing.**



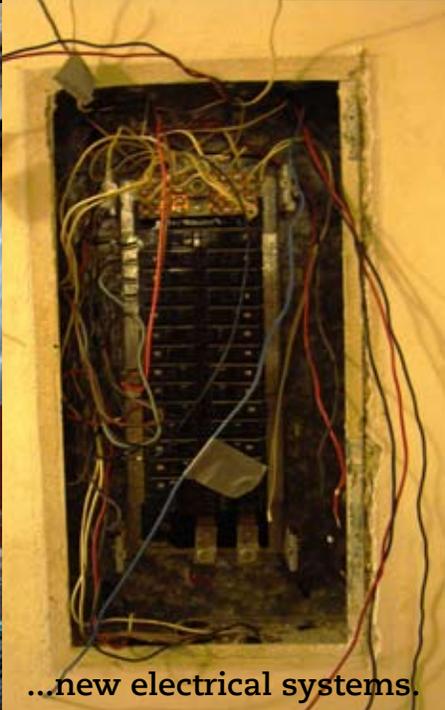
**...energy efficient heating, ventilating, and air conditioning.**



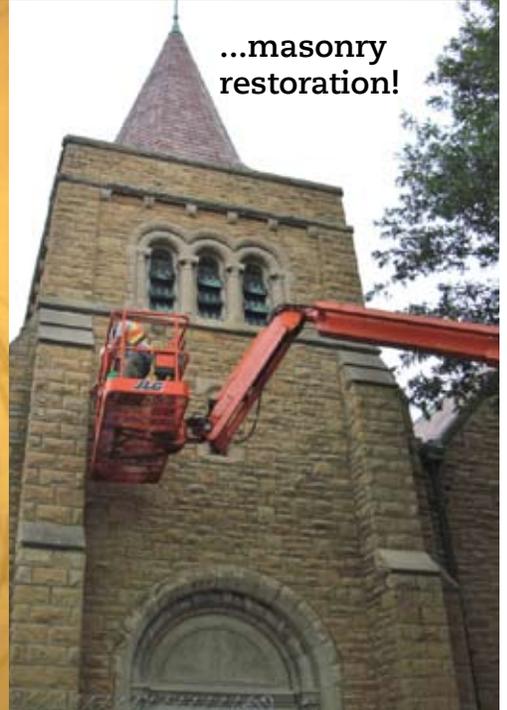
**...a beautiful new kitchen!**



**...a unified and accessible entrance.**



**...new electrical systems.**



**...masonry restoration!**

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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

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## The Minnesota Marriage Amendment

From Zoë Leuthner, Unity Church member

Written for a class at St. Paul Central High School

The Minnesota Marriage Amendment matters to me because all people deserve equal rights. If two people love each other and want to get married, they should be able to. Gay people have the same ability to love as straight people. Everyone has an equal right to express their love and have a family. Gay people deserve the benefits of marriage. The children of gay people shouldn't have to wonder why their friend's parents are married but theirs aren't.

There's a reason why there's a separation of church and state. Religion shouldn't control politics, and a belief based on religion shouldn't become a law. I don't see how letting people get married and be happy could have negative consequences. If someone doesn't like gay marriage, then they don't need to have a gay marriage. Saying that a gay couple can't get married won't stop them from being gay or make them love each other any less. No one should be able to decide what's right for another person or let their own fear stand in the way of other people's happiness. People are born with their sexual orientation and there is no reason to punish them for something they can't control.

At my school, gay slurs are thrown around like it's no big deal. Other kids laugh and don't realize that this is a real issue and that same ignorance and hate is holding back so many people. They don't realize that their narrow-mindedness is something they should be ashamed of.

People need to stop putting each other down and trying to make others feel like they aren't worthy of the great things that life has to offer. Every person has a right to be who they are and love who they love. Love is a gift to be celebrated that doesn't know gender or laws or sexual orientation. People are people and love is love.

## 7th Annual New Orleans Pilgrimage

The 7th Annual Pilgrimage to New Orleans will take place from October 27–November 3.

Since Hurricane Katrina drowned more than 80% of New Orleans homes, volunteers are still welcome as there continues to be an enormous rebuilding job in the city. The need of not just rebuilding homes, but rebuilding lives.

These yearly pilgrimages focus on rebuilding homes and other volunteer activities but also explore the racial and class structure of New Orleans and the unique cultural makeup of the city. People of *all* building skill levels and other abilities are encouraged to join this pilgrimage. The 2012 pilgrimage will include some unique cultural experiences with our friends at the other end of the river. For more information or questions, contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

### Marriage Equality Conversation Training Opportunities

Unity Church has set a goal of having 4,000 conversations by the November election! Having conversations with people you know is the single most effective strategy to beat the Minnesota anti-marriage amendment. You don't have to win an argument; you just need to open hearts.

Learn how to have personal conversations about the anti-marriage amendment with your friends, neighbors and co-workers. This is a 2-hour interactive training which helps participants become more comfortable with having these critical conversations.

Unity training dates include (choose one):

- Thursday, August 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

If you can't make one of these dates there are additional trainings happening throughout the Twin Cities. Follow this link for details and to RSVP: <http://mnunited.org/faithconversations>.

Trainings will be held at the Unity Church owned duplex located at 722 Holly Avenue (directly next door to the church building). Please note: Unity Church is under construction. This training is on the duplex third floor and there is no elevator.

### 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 8, 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!

If you would like serve on the SUPC Board of Directors, please contact Martha Tilton at 651-330-7997 or [martha@unityunitarian.org](mailto:martha@unityunitarian.org) for more information.

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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

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Unitarian Universalist Service Committee News  
from Mary Rossman, Unity Church UUSC Representative

## Bill Schulz is coming to Unity Church!



Bill is the President and CEO of UUSC. He's a widely sought public speaker and he'll be with us for TWO days: Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9. There will be a workshop on Saturday morning, and a dinner and special event on Saturday evening. Bill will preach all three Sunday sermons. Put those dates on your calendar – this is the kind of “big event” you won't want to miss.

Bill Schulz was born in 1949. He has degrees from Oberlin, The University of Chicago and Meadville Lombard Seminary in Chicago. Eight colleges and universities have given him Honorary Doctorate Degrees. He was President of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1985 to 1993, then he became Executive Director of Amnesty International from 1994 to 2006. He is the author of several books including: *Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights* and *In Our Best Interest: How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All*. Bill is an internationally recognized human rights activist, a scholar and passionate advocate for social justice. Bill says faith commitments are demonstrated foremost by actions, not merely by intentions. Bill is a spiritual leader who is willing to jeopardize his own safety and lead by example.

Leading up to Bill Schulz's time with us and while he's here, there will be increased emphasis on adding Unity folks to UUSC membership.

Lots of organizations focus on human rights and social justice. UUSC is OUR organization with OUR values and OUR visions and OUR passions. UUSC is recognized as one of the most creative and effective human rights organizations in the country.

UUSC loves members! Membership gives the benefit of knowing that you're enabling UUSC to make a difference in the lives of those who confront unjust power structures everyday. You will be part of an organization that's working to make human rights violations a far rarer phenomenon in this world!

You can join UUSC online. Go to [www.uusc.org/uusc\\_membership](http://www.uusc.org/uusc_membership) to get the enrollment form. Dues are: \$40 General; \$75 General (dual); \$10 student/youth; \$20 senior; and \$40 senior (dual.)



## In November, we urge you to VOTE 'NO' to the photo ID constitutional amendment.

### From the Racial Justice Outreach Ministry Team

*We are a community outreach ministry team which addresses the end statement Beyond and strives to be a visible leader and partner, making a positive impact in our neighborhood by a commitment to racial healing in covenant with people and communities of color, advocating in the public arena for liberal religious values in response to prejudice, injustice and oppression.*

This coming November, Minnesota voters will be asked to vote on a constitutional amendment that requires voters to show a government-issued photo ID in order to vote. Why is this not a good idea? There are all sorts of logical reasons to **vote NO** to requiring another layer of ID in order to vote. For one, the details of how this amendment will be implemented have not been developed, so a change to the MN constitution is a very permanent solution to a very small problem. The problem, voter fraud, has not been studied in a way that lays out a variety of solutions for voters.

But more importantly, there are spiritual reasons to **vote NO** to photo ID. From the seven tenets of Unitarianism: “We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We believe in justice, equity and compassion in human relations.” As Unitarians, we need to “err” on the side of the worth of every person. If the amendment prevents even one person, who should be able to vote, from voting, then we should not support it. The logic below outlines why not one but many (seniors, low income folks, students, those serving overseas, etc.) will have hurdles to their ability to get to the polls and vote.

There are three main reasons why the League of Women Voters of Minnesota also opposes photo ID requirements:

- Photo ID requirements will suppress the vote.
- Photo ID requirements are not necessary for election integrity because no one in Minnesota has ever been convicted of voter impersonation.
- Photo ID requirements create another layer of costly bureaucracy in our elections.

These are some of the problems with the amendment as it is written (from LWV website):

- Voters on the ballot question will not know what kinds of ID will be permitted. That would not be determined until the 2013 legislature enacts legislation.
- Taxpayers will pay for the “free” IDs. Citizens will pay for the documents they need to get an ID, such as a certified birth certificate (\$26 in MN).

**We urge you to VOTE 'NO' to this constitutional amendment that will suppress voting rights.**



## What's New in the Library and Bookstall

From Louise Merriam, Library Team

While you're waiting for the libraries and bookstall to reopen after construction, here are some summer reading recommendations from other Unitarian Universalist churches.

- Recommended by the First Unitarian Church of Portland: *Wendell Berry: New Collected Poems* (2012)
- Recommended for UU leaders by the UUA: *Liberating Hope!: Daring to Renew the Mainline Church* by Michael Piazza (2011)
- Recommended by Rev. Daniel Kanter, senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Dallas: *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong (2010)
- Recommended by Rev. Bill Schultz in 2011: *The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen* by Kwame Anthony Appiah (2010)
- Recommended by Rev. Sarah Stewart, Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Plymouth, New Hampshire, in May 2011 issue of UU World: *Sorcerer's Treason* by Sarah Zettel (2002)
- Recommended by Rev. Dan Harper, Assistant Minister of Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, California: *American Religion: Contemporary Trends* by Mark Chavez (2011)
- Recommended by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lincoln, Nebraska: *At Work in Life's Garden: Writers on the Spiritual Adventure of Parenting* by Sarah Conover and Tracy Springberry (2005)

See you all soon. In the meantime, keep reading!



Have you snapped any interesting photos this summer? Or composed poetry, created art or written prose? Unity needs your wisdom and point of view! Submit to *Cairns* anytime. More info at: [www.unityunitarian.org/cairns-arts-journal](http://www.unityunitarian.org/cairns-arts-journal)  
**Now under construction: CAIRNS Vol. 4 2012**



You don't have to go far to support Unity Libraries. Go to Amazon via the link on Unity's website. Each purchase helps earn free books for Unity Libraries.

**amazon.com**

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# MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH / MUSIC MINISTRY

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## Did you miss Religious Education Registration?

Save the Date:  
September 5, 2012!

If your family missed our four Spring sessions of registration for Religious Education (R.E.) 2012-13, please plan on joining us for the September session on Wednesday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m. Childcare is provided. Spaces remain in most classes at all three services. R.E. begins on Sunday, September 16, 2012.

### Incoming 7th- 9th graders!

If you are interested in having your youth enrolled in **Our Whole Lives**, a holistic sexuality and relationship program of the UUA, or for 9th graders only, **Coming of Age**, our spiritual growth and enrichment program, please contact Drew Danielson, Coordinator of Youth and Campus Ministries at [drew@unityunitarian.org](mailto:drew@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456x112. *Both classes meet mid-September – late April, and orientations will be held in late August and early September.*

### Young UU Families: Summer Potluck Gathering

All families are invited to gather at the park across Grotto Street immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, August 12. No need to RSVP. Bring a dish to share and anything specific your family may need. There will be games and an opportunity to develop friendships and community with other Unity Church families.

### Childcare

Childcare is available for all church-sponsored activities. Please contact Christy Randall by email at [christy@unityunitarian.org](mailto:christy@unityunitarian.org). Reservations must be made one week in advance.

### 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. We have a great time together!

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.  
Rehearsal locations to be announced.

#### Beginning in SEPTEMBER:

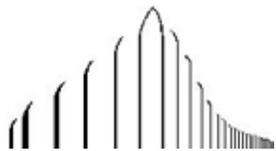
- **Children's Choir** (grades 1 - 5): Sunday, September 16, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. Kathleen Radspinner, director
- **Unity Choir** (adult, high school and beyond): Thursday, September 6, from 7:30– 9:15 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director
- **Unity Singers** (auditioned membership): Tuesday, September 11, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Ruth Palmer, director

#### Beginning in DECEMBER:

- **Carmina Singers** (adult, high school and above): Specifically, this group will SING AT THE 4:30 SERVICE. Rehearsals will be from 3:30 to 4:15, Sunday afternoons. Please let Ruth know of your interest in the Carmina singers. Check *commUNITY* every month for dates and announcements. Ruth Palmer, director
- **"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 few rehearsals and combine with other choirs! Specific dates will be announced. 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 Women's Retreat in January 2011. Our hopes this year are to rehearse regularly every other week from 10:15 to 10:45, Sunday mornings. Please let Ruth know of your interest in the Women's Ensemble. Check *commUNITY* every month for dates and announcements. Ruth Palmer, director

### Music Support Team

Please consider joining with us to support the many associated needs for our singers, musicians and entire music program area. We need your help as greeters, Welcome Team, kitchen assistance, music filing, upkeep of musical supplies, etc. Events and areas of need such as the Holiday Carol Sing/Concert/Dessert Buffet, Foote Music Sunday choir receptions and Choir/Storage Room need your unique abilities. And, SPECIAL this year only.... unpacking and organizing Music Program areas in mid-November. Please feel to contact Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, with your interest and questions at [ruth@unityunitarian.org](mailto:ruth@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x118.



# UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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LISA FRIEDMAN, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Life, Death, and the Sacred Side of Science

**Sunday, August 26 • 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

**This workshop will be held in the church-owned duplex at 722 Holly Avenue.**

Western civilization is grounded in a creation story that explains death as the consequence of humanity's original sin of disobedience. Whether or not we are consciously aware of this story, the notion that death is un-natural, bad, and something to be avoided at all costs pervades our existence and shows up in increasingly dysfunctional ways. In this program Rev. Michael Dowd shares how a wide range of sciences reveal that death is natural and generative at all levels of reality and no less sacred than life.



Michael Dowd is one of the most inspiring science-based speakers in America today. His engaging presentations integrate an evidential view of reality with a passionate, life-affirming message of hope and possibility. He blogs regularly for The Huffington Post and Metanexus, recently delivered a TEDx talk, and was a Distinguished Lecturer at CalTech and at the United Nations. His bestselling book, *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, was endorsed by 6 Nobel laureates and other science luminaries, including noted skeptics, and by religious leaders across the spectrum. Michael and his wife, Connie Barlow, have addressed more

than 1,600 religious and secular groups across North America. Their work has been featured in The New York Times, LA Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, Discover magazine, and on CNN, Fox News, and ABC News.

Michael Dowd will preach at Unity Church on Sunday, August 26. See page 3 for more information.

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