

commUNITY

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Unity Church–Unitarian

February 2011

PARADISE

The life of a congregation is a rich community tapestry of people, programs, ministries and worship. We lift up the patterns of this tapestry at Unity Church with the threads of monthly themes woven through our worship and programming. These themes deepen our understanding of our own faith and strengthen our bonds with one another in religious community. We explore each theme in worship and in our newsletter; in covenant groups, guided writing sessions and Wednesday evening programming; and in our community outreach ministries, our literary journal and programs, and many other opportunities. The February theme is Paradise.

In the middle of a Minnesota winter, layered in our sweaters and our fleeces and with muscles clenched against the cold, it can be calming just to conjure the image of a lush green garden, replete with flowers and fruit, washed in warm sunshine in which one can shed the weight of winter wear. Ah, Paradise. The body breathes more deeply whenever the imagination goes there.

So perhaps we can understand why myths and images of primordial paradise arose in ancient cultures around the world. Many creation stories, including the biblical account of Eden, imagine our human origins in a garden of ease and delight and perfection as if to counter the struggle and suffering and failures of the world that we know.

The word “paradise” traces its roots to a Persian word for a walled garden. It recalls old imperial plantings of flowers and trees, sometimes created in the heart of the driest desert. There, within hedges or walls, one could wander amidst well watered beauty and birdsong without worry of ever getting lost and, on the part of the imperial beholders, without themselves toiling to maintain it. In a life of labor and loss, who wouldn’t wish for a place of such peaceful repose and plenty?

At the other end of the Paradise spectrum, heaven awaits with Elysian enticement. “A foolish concept, to be sure,” writer Kathleen Norris admits of heaven, “and apparently irresistible to the human spirit.” And why not? Mythologically, these stories of perfect beginnings and endings can serve as balm to the pain found in the messy middle of living. But if we hold them loosely enough, the stories of Paradise at either end offer more than an antidote to the suffering experienced in between. They can be a clue to truer living here and now, not an escape from this life and this world but a warmer way of being even in the midst of wintery times.

Look closely at the myths and images of the Garden of Paradise, and you will see an eco-system in fine working balance, a sustainable ecology of being. The trees are laden with fruit, the soil untrodden by time, the relationships clothed in trust and no more. Water flows freely, often in four distinct rivers, each running in a different direction so no corner of the earth ever goes thirsty. And abundance is found in neither harness nor shackle,

but rather in proper alignment of each to all and all to each, humans and creatures and plant life held in right relationship with one another.

Did this ever exist? Could it ever come to pass? There are those who have searched the stories to find the coordinates of Paradise. And many a European expedition to the New World was spurred by the desire to find Paradise – and then conquer and claim it. On his third voyage to the Americas, Columbus once said he had found it, somewhere between Venezuela and Trinidad. But to seek a literal paradise misses the larger point of the poetic Paradise handed down through the ages. For at the heart of every Paradise is water – rivers flowing freely with that life-giving substance that will run through our fingers each time we grab it. Not for claim or for conquest, Paradise is lost the moment we pry it from others or hold on too tightly.

More useful, then, might be questions of a different kind. Such as, how does this garden grow in our human consciousness, and where do its rivers flow? Or, how can we conjure its warmth and abundance within us, and how might our hearts be opened and given to one another when we do?

“What are you waiting for,” the singer Patti Cathcart asks. “Believe in me. Isn’t it love in this life that you need? You can offer your soul to an altar of sacrifice, but give your heart to me. Let’s bring heaven down here, let’s bring heaven on down.”

~ Karen Hering,
Consulting Literary Minister

Worship Theme Resources

BOOKS

Saving Paradise, by Rebecca Parker and Rita Nakashima Brock

Utopia, by Sir Thomas Moore

Island, by Aldous Huxley

FILM

It’s a Wonderful Life (1946) An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing what life would have been like if he never existed.

Enchanted April (1992) Two married women living in 1920’s London share the misery of empty relationships with their spouses and decide to rent an Italian castle for the spring to get away.

JUST WORDS

Just Words

The writer E.B. White posed the question that often plagues us: “I arise each morning with conflicting desires to save and to savor the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.” Of course it does. It is tricky to know how to strike the balance between doing and being for many of us. But finding the balance is what we are called to do. To feel a sense of wholeness within ourselves and with the world around us—that is a desired goal for everyone. As Lillian Smith wrote, “There are two journeys every one of us must make: into our own hearts, accepting what we find there, and into the world, accepting it as our home.

I believe that we must undertake both of these journeys if we are to live whole and healthy lives. Keeping these two concerns in balance is the tricky business of living well. We all know activists who haven’t tended to their inner life at all and folks so preoccupied with the inward journey that they haven’t thought about how they might bless the world outside of themselves.

Here at Unity Church we also try to strike a balance between nourishing the inward journey by offering wonderful and diverse programming. We also offer ample opportunities for blessing the world. We are committed to supporting folks in creating a sense of balance in their own life and in their life here at church.

Later this month we will celebrate Unitarian Universalist Heritage Week, which will seek to expose more folks to our rich religious history. Woven throughout this history, one can perceive the same effort to create a balance between saving and savoring the world. Our religious ancestors were men and women committed to making the world a better place for all, but who were also dedicated to nourishing the life of the spirit.

In addition to our religious ancestors, I think of the Bodhisattva in Buddhism who has attained enlightenment but refuses to stay there and get off the wheel of suffering because it would mean forsaking the interconnectedness of life, without which personal fulfillment is meaningless.

It is tricky to maintain a balance especially when you add all the other duties of living, but as we emerge out of the dark days of January, may we find time both to save and savor the world.

— Janne Eller-Isaacs



Unity Tomorrow • See page 8

Visit www.UnityTomorrow.org for information and updates on the Unity Church facilities planning process.

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

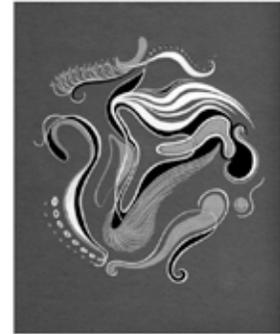
Luca Giovanni LaFerla
Born one more redeemer
January 3, 2011
to parents
Tara and Joseph LaFerla

In Remembrance

Richard V. Johnson
beloved father of
Nancy Heege

Cairns Correction

“Harmonic Converge” on page 76 was incorrectly credited, and is indeed by Unity’s talented Connie Oace. The editors apologize for this mistake.



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FEBRUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted.

Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

February 6

***Fodor's Guide to Heaven* — Janne Eller-Isaacs**

If there was a guide for heaven, what would it tell us? Janne and Worship Associate Jeanne Barker-Nunn will explore our religious ancestor's understanding of heaven and what it might mean in today's world.

February 13

***Practicing Paradise* — Karen Hering**

Whether it's depicting the mythical garden of creation stories or an eternal and toil free afterlife, Paradise is often assumed to exist in some other time and some other place. But the early Christian Church also cherished Paradise as a practice, as a way of being with one another and a counterpoint to the empire of their times. What might it mean to "practice paradise" today? Karen and Worship Associate Laura Schlatter will explore how the myths and images of Paradise might inform and inspire our relationships with one another and with the world around us today.

February 20

***Transcendental Wild Oats* — Rob Eller-Isaacs**

In his "Choruses from 'The Rock'" Frederick May Eliot wrote "There will always be those who hide from the darkness outside and within by dreaming of systems so perfect that no one will need to be good." Utopian visionaries tend to fall into that trap. Rob and Worship Associate Patricia Ohmans will offer a service which, beginning with Louisa May Alcott's witty appraisal of her father Bronson's Fruitland experiment, will take a long hard look at the longing for heaven on earth.

February 27

***I May Not Get There With You* — Jason Seymour**

The image of paradise calls us onward and upward, toward our most honorable goals, our highest hopes and aspirations. But what happens when our ideals remain forever just out of our reach? What sustains our faith when we are kept from our promised land?

February 6: Camp Unistar Cass Lake

Camp Unistar in northern Minnesota is a beautiful island retreat run by the Prairie Star District for 12 weeks each summer. The weekly camps offer planned outdoor recreational activities as well as opportunities for growth, reflection and creativity. All of the camp's activities reflect Unitarian Universalist (UU) values by providing quality programming, building a strong sense of community with people of all ages and backgrounds and by helping participants form a stronger UU identity. The camp is priced to be affordable to most and offers scholarships. Unity Church has a long and strong relationship as many people of all ages have attended family and youth weeks. This particular offering will be applied directly to help pay off the mortgage of the new modern kitchen built in 2007.

February 13: Doing Good Together (DGT)

Doing Good Together weaves volunteerism, charitable giving and social action into the fabric of families' lives to strengthen family bonds, bring communities together and inspire kids to care. Since 2004, DGT has equipped families to volunteer in their communities with workshops, online resources, and a variety of tools that make volunteering a meaningful and fun experience for the whole family. DGT collaborates with organizations such as Head Start programs, Minnesota Children's Museum, Metro Meals on Wheels, and Global Citizen's Network to deepen family service efforts and to understand critical social issues. Unity Church member Sarah Aadland serves on DGT's Development Committee and with her family participates in DGT volunteer activities.

February 20: Store to Door

The Store to Door mission is to enhance opportunities for aging adults to live independently. Store to Door shops for and delivers groceries directly into the kitchens of homebound elderly, providing access to competitively priced food and personalized delivery. Many volunteers collect the grocery orders, shop for food and then staff members deliver the groceries in refrigerated vans. All clients pay for their own groceries and the agency serves people of all income levels. In 2010, Store to Door served 1,315 clients in the Twin Cities metro area, delivering 17,126 orders with a value of more than \$1.2 million dollars.

February 27: UUSC

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. Through a combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, the UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis. Many Unity Church members and families participate in the annual UUSC program, Guest at Your Table.

Come to church on Sundays in February and March!

Secret Pals!

Winter Fun for All: Unity Secret Pal Project

See back cover for details.

HALLMAN MINISTERIAL INTERN /BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jason Seymour
2010-11 Hallman Ministerial Intern

Is paradise really out there somewhere?
Or is it more of an inward state?

No doubt, there are external realities that can preclude an inward state of paradise. I cannot find inward bliss while hungry or cold, or while subjected to violence or abuse (even if by my own hand). So, surely one step toward paradise is to remediate the outer causes of suffering: poverty, prejudice, inequality of opportunity, etc. Theologically, this outward ethic is expressed in ideas about manifesting the Kingdom of God on Earth, via the Social Gospel and the Beloved Community.

But what of paradise as an inward state? To what extent is my contentment contingent upon my progress toward an outer expectation? Is this feasible?

My suggestion here is that we too often rely on observable, outward actions for measurement of our progress toward paradise. This is true, as well, in the field of ethics. In the social sciences, the word for this is "behaviorism." Behaviorism means that we interpret changes to a person based solely upon outward behaviors that we can observe scientifically. Accordingly, there is no need to bother with theories of the mind or emotions, or what someone *thinks* or *feels*. We need only to study what a person *does*.

This is not my favorite approach to ethics. It delivers a ruthless and impatient preference for action, but it is neither holistic nor practical. What about reflection? As a person of religious sensibility, I hold that people's feelings do indeed matter. (In fact, in Unitarianism, religious *feeling* is a foundational source of discernment and Truth!) And so, to study the ends and ignore the means is to neglect that we humans spend most of our lives contemplating our means... our identities, our faith, the limits of our mutual belonging, etc.

In fact, I would suggest that we humans rarely ever actually arrive at our ends... especially ends as grand as paradise or Beloved Community. This is not to say that we should give up our external mandates in favor of internal changes. Injustice and oppression exist around us in myriad forms, and it would be a gross tragedy to allow ourselves or our neighbors to suffer while we merely change our feelings about the situation. (This is a frequent, often apt, criticism of "bleeding heart liberals.")

In summary, paradise has both inner and outer dimensions, requiring of us both practice and reflection. Paradise is an articulation of an outer state – perhaps one always just beyond our reach, but important just the same! – that is the object of our heart's longing for a world more just, more beautiful. And paradise is an inward state, a feeling of contentment and gratitude for the multitude of gifts that comprise our life. It is the ritualistic turn to recognizing the beauty, no matter how fleeting, that already exists around us... in faithful view of the outer paradise that awaits our efforts.

Practice, reflection; this is the pedagogy of paradise.

Board of Trustees

from Laura Smidzik, Trustee

January marks the beginning of the year for the Board of Trustees. Our annual primer on policy governance calls us to question crucial ideas and dreams regarding Unity Church and our future. January also marks the nation's recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. day. Much of Rev. King's beliefs and writings can inform our work today.

Our job as Trustees is to build a relationship with our "moral owners" (defined as "those who yearn for the Beloved Community and see Unity Church as an instrument for its realization"). Martin Luther King popularized the term "Beloved Community" in numerous writings and speeches. The King Center hosts a web page describing the Beloved Community Network and goes into a deeper description of King's vision. At Unity, our governing policies define the Beloved Community as "one which is engaged in the work of the spirit. Unity's governance policy describes Beloved Community as "community at the highest level of reality and possibility, where love and justice prevail."

This year will focus on the work of *Unity Tomorrow* and the future of Unity Church. Does a physical structure (a building) impact the work of the spirit? I would say the answer is no and yes. No, because the work of the spirit can occur anywhere and does every day within our own lives, among each other and beyond the walls of Unity. King said that "Faith is the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." Where will our first step lead us? Can we create a space where we truly thrive and reach higher levels of possibility? Can we create a physical building that reflects and sustains our work and the work of so many others in the surrounding community?

How do we build for those who are not yet here at Unity Church? Our job is to hold the spirit of those of us who come to Sunday worship and participate in our programs and then open the embrace wide as we dream for future generations. What will people in this sacred community in the years ahead (2011, 2051 or 2071) note about our current lives and work? What structures and programs will demonstrate the way we choose to embrace our dreams? I am excited to work toward us living into our highest level of reality and possibility so that the work of the spirit flows toward love and justice for all.

The Board has called a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, March 20. There will also be **two open presentations of the feasibility study** and the Board's recommendations. The first will be held on Wednesday evening **February 23, at 7:15 p.m.** The second information session is planned for **Sunday, March 6, following each of the three services.**

Please see the box at right for more information about the congregational meeting and turn to page 8 for details about the *Unity Tomorrow* process.

REPORT ON THE 2011 BUDGET / CALL TO MEETING

2011 Budget Report from the Board of Trustees

Summary

This past November the Board sent a letter to the congregation about the Board's concern that projected pledges would fall short of our projected costs and that our commitment to fair staff compensation would be compromised for another year. The Board asked the congregation to help fill the gap by increasing pledges for 2011.

By the Annual Meeting on November 20, \$9,000 in increases had been received and the congregation approved a balanced budget which included a 1% salary increase for all staff and additional increases to three staff members, bringing their salaries to within 5% of the median for their positions. The budget included a 1% salary increase for the co-ministers, but we were unable to bring their salaries to within 5% of the median for their positions.

Revised 2011 Budget

At the December 15 meeting of the Board, the Trustees approved a Revised 2011 Budget based on the additional responses to the congregational letter (\$25,994 in total increases) and some anticipated decreases in expenses.

The revised budget includes a 2% salary increase for all staff (1% more than the November approved budget), five additional staff hours in our Religious Education program (a total increase of 10 hours over the 2010 budget), restored funds for the all-congregation worship service, and increases to the co-ministers' salaries to bring them to within 5% of the median for their positions.

Pledge Drive Results

As of January 15, 2011 we have received pledges from 666 households, with total pledges of \$1,137,253. The average and median pledge amounts have increased from 2010.

Our revised budget sets the 2011

pledge goal at 4% above the 2010 pledge base, or \$1,172,600. In order to reach our goal, we will need additional pledges totaling \$35,347 by December 31, 2011. Each year we receive an average of about 100 pledges from new members throughout the year. Our current 2011 pledges include 70 new pledges and we anticipate exceeding 100 by the end of the year.

2010 Pledge Collections

The budget is built on projected pledges and other income. The budget assumes that 4% of pledges made will remain uncollected at the end of each year.

For 2010, uncollected pledges currently exceed the projected 4% by about \$50,000, some of which we still expect to receive. Despite this loss of anticipated income, we hope to close the 2010 fiscal year without a deficit. Each year, one percent of our budget is set aside for reserves; any deficit will be made up from our reserves.

Future Budget Planning

Although we are projecting a 4% increase in total pledge dollars in 2011, the number of pledging households remains fairly flat. Looking at our pledge base in quartiles, the number of pledging units in the top three quartiles did not rise. We remain disproportionately dependent on too few high-level donors: out of 666 pledges, 109 households, with pledges of \$2500 or more shoulder half the budget. There are 408 households in the bottom quartile pledging from \$25 to \$1450, with a median of \$660.

Going forward, we hope to have a more evenly distributed quartile base with households giving generously within their capacity.

The Board of Trustees has asked the Executive Team to begin 2012 budget planning earlier in the fall so that a proposed budget will be available to guide your decisions during the fall

pledge drive. We will continue to monitor the financial health of our church as we move ahead with our dreams.

The Board welcomes your comments and suggestions for enhancing our financial health.

Additional resources including: the November 2010 letter from the Board to congregation, the 2011 budget approved by the congregation, the revised 2011 budget, and pledge drive results as of January 15, 2011, are available online as PDF documents at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/governing.htm>

Call to Meeting



**Special Meeting
of the Congregation
Sunday, March 20
12:30 p.m.
Sanctuary**

The Unity Church Board of Trustees has called a special meeting of the congregation.

The Board will make a recommendation to the congregation concerning the possible capital campaign. The congregation will then vote on the proposed recommendation. Eligible voting members of the congregation include those who have signed the membership book, made an identifiable pledge to the church for 2011 and a contribution towards that pledge.

See page 8 for more information.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Fellowship Groups

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

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, February 14 and 28, 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 9:00 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: Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

Unity Book Club: Tuesday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m.

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

U-knitarians: Wednesday, February 16. Contact Betsy Guthmann at betsyg28@aol.com

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. Contact Rachel Holtzer, Facilitator, at erholtzer@gmail.com.

Unity Sangha, A Weekly Meditation Community

Tuesdays • 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Find renewal and grounding each week in a supportive group setting. Strengthen a private practice by sitting in community. Zen meditation is an accessible spiritual practice that offers awareness, clarity and peace. People of all experience levels are welcome. Please arrive promptly; newcomers are encouraged to arrive 10 minutes early.

Modern UU History: Growth, Merger and Unity

Unitarian Universalist History, Part 3: Unitarianism and Universalism in America
Four Mondays: February 7, 14, 21, 28
7:00–8:30 p.m.

Have you wondered about the recent history of our religious tradition? Join Hallman Ministerial Intern Jason Seymour for the third of a three-part series of discussions that explore enduring themes and major events in the evolution of our faith tradition. The February series will focus on the following themes: abolition and anti-racism, Unitarian and Universalist merger, religious humanism, and the history of Unity Church-Unitarian. We will meet four times; each meeting will offer opportunities for fellowship, personal reflection and group discussion.

To reserve a space in the class and a reading packet, contact Jason Seymour via e-mail at jason@unityunitarian.org or via phone through the Church Office.

Welcome to Unity

Wednesday, February 9 • 7:10–8:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 20 • 12:10–1:00 p.m.

This class is geared to newcomers, visitors, and those seeking to learn more about Unitarian Universalists and Unity Church. *Welcome to Unity* covers the mission and vision of the church as well as the basics of historical and contemporary Unitarian Universalism. This class invites participants to reflect on their own faith journey and religious questions. Contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office to sign up.

Caregivers Group

Thursday, February 17 • 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 if you would like to participate in this group.

Elders' Circle

Tuesday, February 22 • 1:00–2:30 p.m.

The Elders' Circle is a group of church elders (self-identified!) who convene monthly for worship, fellowship and fun. For more information, contact Hallman Ministerial Intern Jason Seymour via e-mail at jason@unityunitarian.org or via phone through the Church Office. Refreshments will be served.

FEBRUARY WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY

Paradise — We Are Already in the Garden

Each Wednesday evening, everyone is invited to gather for a night at Unity Church. This is a time to engage in religious community, a time to cultivate our values and beliefs.

Schedule for the Evening

6:00 p.m. Dinner: \$7/adult, \$4/child ages 5 to 12, \$2/child ages 2 to 4, and \$18/family, and can be paid by cash or check.

6:45 p.m. Worship service in the Ames Chapel.

7:10 p.m. Programs follow worship. Childcare is available.

February 2

Paradise in Community

Come and hear Reverend Ron Smith, the senior minister of Unity Baptist Church, and Adele Brown, Senior Organizer at Jewish Community Action and Chair of Mount Zion Temple's Tzedek (Justice) Committee, in a conversation about building the Beloved Community in St. Paul by bridging the distance between faiths and justice.

R.E. New Family Orientation

February 9

Dinner: meatloaf or veggieloaf, mashed potatoes, salad, cherry pie

Paradise in the 'Hood

In the depth of winter, Unity gardeners and friends are hatching plans and stocking up for the coming, greener season. Are you dreaming of fresh raspberries picked from your own garden? Does the thought of a small flock of backyard chickens make you smile? Did you know you can tap your backyard maple, make your own fresh cheeses, grow rhubarb in the middle of your flower garden? Join members of Frogtown Gardens and the owners of Egg/Plant Urban Farm Supply store in a fun event that will get us all thinking about how to grow a greener, healthier neighborhood and home.

Congregational Book Read

Unity Church members are observing Black History Month by reading *Family* by J. California Cooper. An award-winning author, Cooper has written five collections of short stories, three novels and seventeen plays. A second opportunity to discuss this book is scheduled for Sunday, February 20, at 12:30 p.m.

February 16

Awakening the Dreamer

Changing the Dream of the Modern World Symposium (Part One)

Reconnect with the present challenges of the planet, break free of unsustainable assumptions about the environment and dream a peaceful future into being. Facilitators Karen Studders and Katheryn Schneider will introduce the work of The Pachamama Initiative, an organization committed to protecting the indigenous people and the indigenous wisdom of the Amazonian Rainforest. Karen and Katheryn will lead us in an inspiring, deeply encouraging conversation about how we, as global citizens, can commit ourselves anew to the interconnected work of sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfillment.

Drumming

Percussionist Greg Stern calls us to the spirit of the drum! Come and learn about the tradition of drumming and how it can enrich your life. There will be opportunities to listen and to participate. There is even the opportunity to plan an on-going group!

U-knitarians

Are you a knitter? Do you crochet? Love needlepoint or counted cross stitch? If you are a person who just has to have some needlework project going at all times, please come and join the U-Knitarians! We work on our projects and get to know one another. Beginners are welcome! Some of the knitters are making Caring Shawls for the Pastoral Care Team.

Come and stitch with us!



February 23

Awakening the Dreamer

Changing the Dream of the Modern World Symposium (Part Two)

Unity Tomorrow

Understanding the Feasibility Study An Open Congregational Conversation

In anticipation of the March 20 congregational vote on the future of Unity Church and the capital campaign, please join representatives from the Board of Trustees and the Current Site Team to discuss the latest phase of the planning process.

Offered Every Week at Wellspring Wednesday

Yoga with Jen Seymour • \$10/class

Jen Seymour began her yoga journey in 2000 and has taught all levels of students in group and individual settings. Yoga is appropriate for people of all levels of experience and all physical abilities. Wear comfortable clothing and bring water and a yoga mat. 75-minute yoga class cost: 10 classes for \$80 or a single class for \$10. First time participants are encouraged to try at no cost.

Junior High Youth Group

The Junior High Youth Group meets every week to bake, create, serve, learn, and laugh. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited to participate.

Beyond the Birds and the Bees: OWL Parents Group

Beyond the Birds and the Bees is a parent group which meets parallel to the OWL classes for teens. Join us for conversation and community about everything concerning parenting teens.

Unity Tomorrow

Having completed the pre-design process, received the report from our architectural/engineering team at Miller Dunwiddie (www.millerdunwiddie.com) and shared three reconstruction concepts with the congregation, the *Unity Tomorrow* process is moving forward.

The feasibility study is underway. We have produced an initial case statement to help to guide the conversation. By the end of the first week in February, our fundraising counsel, Andy Currie, will have conducted interviews with 30 key Unity Church households. Given that we are considering a capital campaign of \$16.5 million, we will be asking those most capable of making large contributions to ponder that possibility.

The Board will be discussing the feasibility report at its meeting of Wednesday evening, February 16. They will then make a recommendation to the congregation at the **Special Meeting of the Congregation that has been called for Sunday, March 20, at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** See boxed "Call to Meeting" on page 5.

There will also be **two open presentations of the feasibility study** and the Board's recommendations. The first will be held on Wednesday evening **February 23, at 7:15 p.m.** The second information session is planned for **Sunday, March 6, following each of the three services.**

Progress is also being made by the *Unity Two* planning team and an update is included here.

As always, your feedback and input are welcome via e-mail to unitytomorrow@unityunitarian.org, at www.unitytomorrow.org with an online feedback form, or through attendance at one of the above mentioned presentation sessions. Feedback forms are also available in the Parish Hall on Sundays.

Unity Two: Discernment on Partnership and Process

"Seek to extend our community by reaching north." This was number four on the list of recommendations the *Unity Tomorrow* team made to the Executive Committee in June 2010. Reaching north is part of Unity's vision to "create a long-term development plan that embraces both improving and expanding the capacity of our current facility while also envisioning, defining, and financially preparing for expanded programming on an additional site."

In early November, a workgroup was formed to define what this means for Unity Church. For many, the opportunity to express our faith in the wider community is a fundamental personal commitment. At the same time, members of the group understand they are stewards of this work for the whole church, a community that holds diverse views on the expression of our outreach.

The group of fifteen quickly determined that questions of purpose and the reflection of our faith in community needed to come first, before any decision could be made about programming or site selection. In fact, the question of an actual, physical site remains open. Discernment began with questions such as:

- How do we ensure that our actions are aligned with the values, mission and end statements of our church – and our faith?
- What actions would be authentic to who we are now and open the way to future possibilities and spiritual growth?
- How do we make certain our decisions and actions are respectful of the new communities we seek to become engaged with?
- Why do we think we can and should do this work?

The group meets every other week. The focus of the first five meetings has been a discussion of our values and the partnership principles this work must embody. Agreements are beginning to emerge and be refined, and they include but are not limited to:

- This work is generated out of the congregational input through the *Unity Tomorrow* process.
- The drivers of that work—especially music, children and youth, environmental stewardship, and growth—should be key filters for the alignment of this work to the whole *Unity Tomorrow* campaign.
- Our partnerships must be guided by shared values and principles. This work is not about Unity having the answers for the community. It is about opportunities for spiritual engagement and collaborative purpose.
- We must listen – to the community and to the congregation.
- We must be prepared to bring our strengths to the community based upon what we hear in our listening. We must respect the strengths of the community and our partners.
- We must pursue financially sustainable initiatives that do not unduly impact the operational budget of the church.
- This will be a reflective and evolutionary process.

These agreements are beginning to shape all that can be possible. As conversations with prospective partners get underway, what we hear, see and learn will guide and influence our thoughts and actions. The work group will strive for balance between action and reflection and is committed to communicating with the congregation

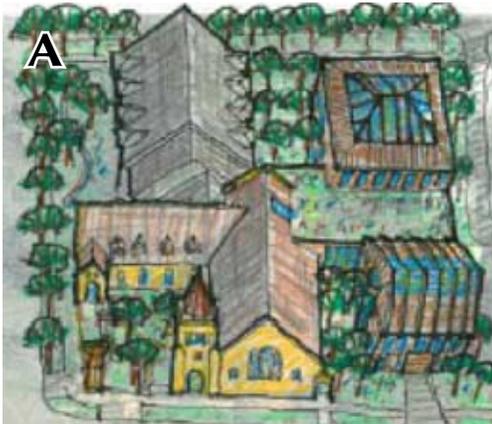
Input and insights on the work of *Unity Two* are welcome and encouraged. E-mail unitytomorrow@unityunitarian.org, and look for upcoming opportunities to learn more at second-Sunday information sessions. We look forward to further conversation with you!

Unity Two team members: Carol Bauer, Don Crannell, Leon Dunkley, Sherm Eagles, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Rob Fulton, Pat Haff, Rick Heydinger, Ann Kirby McGill, Priscilla MacDougall, Mary Manke, Denny Miller, Laura Park, Christi Saari, Teresa Schicker, and Jason Seymour.

UNITY TOMORROW

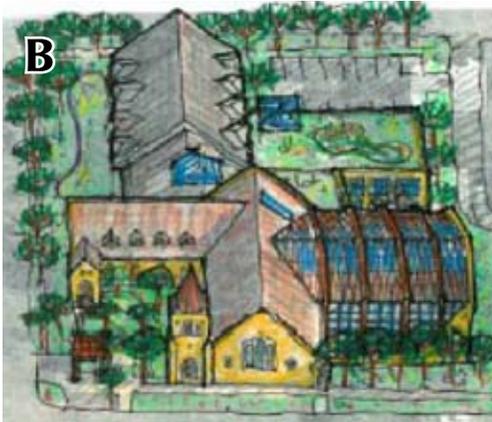
Pre-design Concepts

Below are the three concepts developed by the pre-design architectural firm Miller-Dunwidde. These concepts are on display in the Parish Hall and you can view the entire pre-design slideshow presented to the congregation on November 20, 2010, online at <http://www.unitytomorrow.org/pre-design.html>. Feedback, input, and questions are always welcome by e-mail at unitytomorrow@unityunitarian.org.



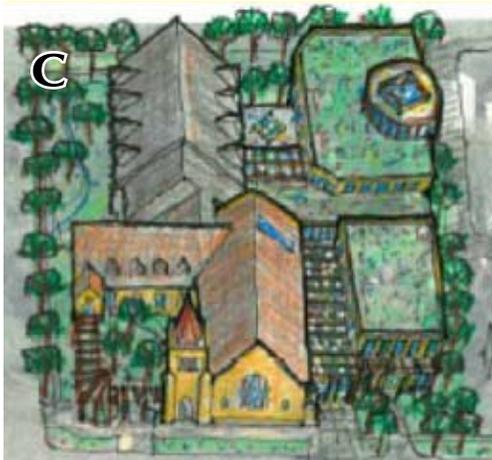
Concept A

- Reuses existing Sanctuary and rotates it 180 degrees with longer site lines
- Centralizes community spaces
- Has the largest Parish Hall of the three options
- No parking spaces are available on grade, but small underground garage is provided



Concept B

- New Sanctuary with centralized seating and balcony
- Central gathering space uses existing Sanctuary
- Sanctuary fronts on Portland lower level
- Provides youth/retreat center on lower level
- Provides parking on grade



Concept C

- New Sanctuary with centralized seating and balcony
- Parish Hall utilizes current Sanctuary space
- Gathering Space extends to three entrances
- Large underground garage increases on-site parking
- Deliveries more difficult



Unity Tomorrow Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesday, February 23 • 7:15 p.m.
Open Discussion: Feasibility Study

Sunday, March 6
Following all three services
Open Discussion: Feasibility Study

Sunday, March 20 • 12:30 p.m.
Special Meeting of the Congregation
Please see Board of Trustees boxed
"Call to Meeting" on page 5.

Meet Christi Saari



Unity Church welcomes Christi Saari in her new position as part-time Development Assistant. Christi provides administrative support to the *Unity Tomorrow* teams and assists with database development and the capital campaign feasibility study.

Christi, her partner Gary Roach, and their son Jonas, are new members of Unity Church and live in St. Paul's Mounds Park neighborhood. Christi enjoys biking, snowboarding, and being car-less.

Christi shares office space with Leon Dunkley and can be reached by e-mail at ChristiS@UnityUnitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x109.

Get caught up at www.unitytomorrow.org

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Winter Warm-Up Drive

The Restorative Justice Ministry Team is assisting Amicus this winter to provide men coming out of prison with basic needs. Please help by donating:

coats
hats
gloves
boots
deodorant
toothpaste
hand lotion
scarves
soap
sanitizer
shampoo
washcloths
duffel bags
and socks

Clothing items can be new or used (clean with no holes, tears or stains) and new, unopened hygiene items are requested.

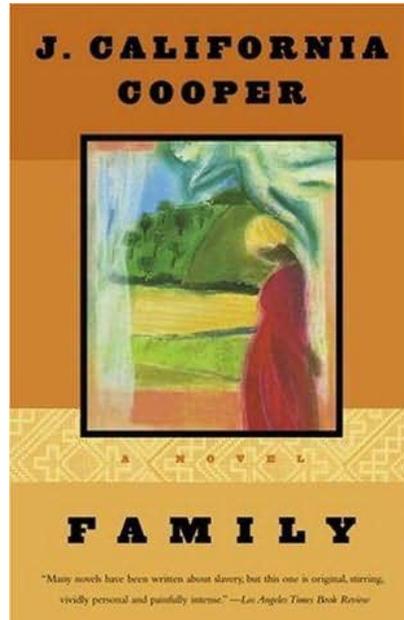
Donations to be used for public transportation cards and tokens for those looking for housing and work will also be gratefully accepted.

Help provide these items this season and send the message that someone cares and wants them to succeed in their efforts to find a second chance.

RJMT members will be available after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services on February 13 and 27 to accept donations and provide information of other volunteer opportunities.

Donations may also be dropped off at Unity Church and placed in Pat Haff's office.

Thank you!



All-Congregation Book Read

Family by J. California Cooper is a short, accessible book. In a couple of hours you could read *Family* and be ready to participate in a discussion. A discussion that reflects how this story sets the stage for today's realities about race. A discussion that explores how we think of our church today.

After reading the book, some Unity Church members have commented that this gripping story seems so real; it is almost like you are there. Early in the book, Cooper wrote "Some people say we was born slaves ... but I don't blive that. I say I was born a free human being, but I was made a slave right after." One Unity member expressed how difficult it is to try to understand how respectful, decent leaders would allow this to happen.

The Racial Justice and Library Ministry Teams would like to invite the Unity Church congregation to read J. California Cooper's novel *Family* in celebration of 2011 Black History Month in February.

There will be several opportunities in February to participate in a facilitated discussion of *Family* with other church and community members. The first will be on Wednesday, February 9, at 7:10 p.m., at a Wellspring Wednesday program and another on Sunday, February 20, after the second morning service at 12:30 p.m., with light refreshments served. There is also a chance to join acclaimed storyteller Nothando Zulu, Arieta Little and others for a free panel discussion and creative performance of *Family* at the Rondo Community Library at 461 North Dale on Thursday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Copies of *Family* will be available at the Unity Church Bookstall.

Help Prepare a Meal!

Thursday, February 17

Help cook a meal for moms and kids at the Jeremiah Program! Contact Karen Buggs by phone at 651 297 0111 or by e-mail at Buggs745@hotmail.com to volunteer. Jeremiah Program assists single mothers and their children to break the cycle of poverty by providing a campus community where they can prosper in all senses of the word.

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. **February 20 suggested items: canned vegetables and tomato sauce.**



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, February 9. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, February 16.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY / PARISH HALL ARTISTS

Building Community Through Theater

In our congregation's continuing efforts to better understand the racial dynamics that shape our history, Unity Church is sponsoring two opportunities to attend outstanding theater events in February. Each of these performances will be followed by audience interaction about the play.

Sunday, February 20, at 2:00 p.m.

Minnesota History Theatre presents

Adrift on the Mississippi

The remarkable story of Rev. Robert Hickman who led a group of slaves out of Missouri, up the Mississippi on a raft in search of freedom. They made their way to St. Paul where they founded Pilgrim Baptist Church, the first black church in Minnesota. Presented at Concordia University's E.M. Pearson Theatre: 312 Hamline Avenue, St. Paul.

Join us in attending this performance along with three other congregations: Mount Zion Temple, Morning Star Baptist, and UNITY Baptist. Discussion to follow the performance. To reserve a seat with other Unity Church members please contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

Saturday, February 19, at 1:30 p.m.

Penumbra Theater and the Guthrie Theater present

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

The nationally acclaimed Penumbra Theater presents at the Guthrie Theater this gripping August Wilson play that gives us a look at a time when even this most legendary singer had to fight for every scrap of respect.

Unity Church has reserved a block of tickets for its members to attend which also includes a post-performance panel discussion. Discount tickets are available for those needing financial support. To reserve a seat with other Unity Church members please contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

FEBRUARY

Parish Hall Artists

Judy Bracci and Marlene Tupy Collaborative Efforts

Our ongoing collaborative efforts have led us to explore the mythology and symbolism of transformation. The images we offer come out of our exchanges regarding expression of external and internal manifestations of wounds and healing.

Reoccurring imagery in our work includes: pears, sculpture in human form, and masks. Pears represent love as redemption and transformation. Simply put, the pear expresses the redemptive transformation of the body and spirit. Yet we ask, "Are we transformed by redemption or does transformation redeem us?" In human sculpture we see a way of giving longevity to the human form perhaps symbolizing the place and moment of reawakening. The veiling nature of the mask acts as a vehicle of the transitory nature of life. Behind the mask we have permission to act out our myths in a symbolic quest to immortalize love and beauty created from a place of longing. Visually we realize the significance of the power embodied within.

As you engage in this visual dialogue we invite you to continue this conversation as your own.

A Call to Service

Living at the intersection of spiritual development and social justice encourages members of Unity Church to reflect on how their spiritual lives inform the ways they serve, bless, and change the world. The Community Outreach Ministry Teams were created to further the ministry of Unity Church in service to the larger community. Contact Pat Haff at the Church Office to become involved in the Community Outreach at Unity Church.

UUSC: What's Up?

from David Byfield and Marty Rossmann, UUSC Ministry Team

At the one-year anniversary of the 7.0 earthquake, Haiti remains in crisis. More than 1.5 million people are still homeless – increasing their vulnerability to the cholera outbreak and violence from the contested elections in November. Cholera is still worsening, with a new case every 18 seconds. Much of the reconstruction has stopped, as everyone tries to end the "flood" of cholera. According to UUSC personnel who have been in Haiti, the non-government organizations have to provide everything. The instability of the Haitian government means it provides nothing.

The Unity Church congregation was especially generous a year ago, sending nearly \$13,000 to UUSC for Haiti projects. Using the money from Unity Church and other congregations, the UUSC has worked with grassroots Haitian partners to provide food and clothing to displaced Haitians, focusing on malnourished children; train 80 Haitian community activists in trauma response; help 200 women street vendors get back on their feet; create child-protection committees in 10 camps; and much, much more.

Despite what seem like insurmountable obstacles, the UUSC personnel say that for each story of sickness, sadness or struggles, there is a story of resilience, perseverance and heroism of the Haitian people. For more information, go to <http://www.uusc.org/Haiti>.

Team members are needed! Please contact David Byfield at 612-374-4786 or DBYF@aol.com or Marty Rossmann at 651-690-4370 or rossm001@umn.edu.

LITERARY MINISTRY / UNITY LIBRARIES



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 and registration requirements and fees.

**Sunday, February 6
2:00-4:00 p.m. • Unity Church**
Reflection Topic: Paradise

Free; RSVP karen@unityunitarian.org
Paradise has often been imagined as a garden laden with fruit, absent of toil and suffering and shining in perfect possibilities, each one realized. What can we learn about the world we live in today, by exploring the myths of paradise found somewhere else? Registration not required, but an e-mail to karen@unityunitarian.org is requested to help in planning space and handouts.

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/WritingMinistry.htm. To receive periodic e-mail notifications of upcoming literary programs and invitations for member writings, contact Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org. These programs are supported by a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism and contributions from individual donors.

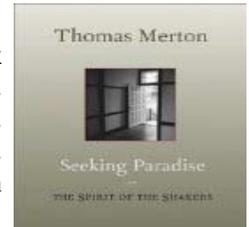


What's New in the Library and Bookstall

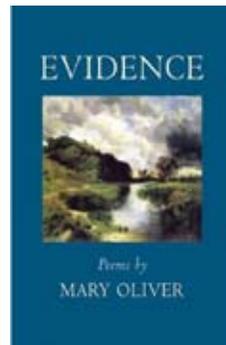
I suppose what makes me most glad is that we all recognize each other in this metaphysical space of silence and happening, and get some sense, for a moment, that we are full of paradise without knowing it. — Thomas Merton

New in the Anderson Library

In *Seeking Paradise: The Spirit of the Shakers*, Trappist monk and spiritual writer Thomas Merton admired the simplicity, peacefulness, and creativity of the Shakers, which, he said, flowed from a "perfect fusion of temporal and eternal values, of spirit and matter." Includes Merton's own photographs of a Shaker village.



In the Bookstall on this Month's Worship Theme: Paradise



Evidence: Poems by Mary Oliver In her newest work, Mary Oliver explores the divine in the physical world, the importance of having loved, and the power and consolation of words.

Finding Beauty in a Broken World by Terry Tempest Williams The renowned creative non-fiction writer and ecologist presents a beautiful mosaic of loss and renewal that affirms the need for reverence for all of life.

Adam & Eve: A Novel by Sena Jeter Naslund What happened to Eden? Best-selling author Naslund envisions a place where science and faith contend for allegiance.

She Who Would Valiant Be:

A Celebration of 19th Century Unitarian Universalist Women **Wellspring Wednesday, March 2**

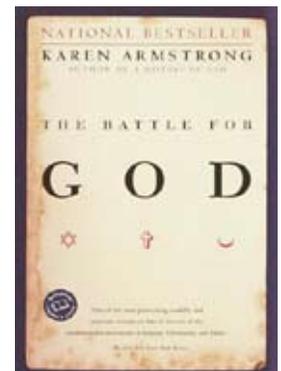
The Library and Bookstall Team invite you to join us in honoring Women's History Month as we reprise our original program featuring the words and music of our activist ancestors such as Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, Olympia Brown, and Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford, of course.

Unity Church Book Club

The Unity Church Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8. The book they will be discussing is *The Battle for God*, by Karen Armstrong.

From Publishers Weekly: Former nun and A History of God iconoclast Armstrong delves deeply once again into the often violent histories of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, this time exploring the rise of fundamentalist enclaves in all three religions.

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



SOURCES SUPPER / HERITAGE WEEK

Annual Sources Suppers During Unitarian Universalist Heritage Week February 19, 20, 26, and 27

We are our stories. This year we are continuing the Sources Supper tradition where we come together in one another's homes to tell the story of Unitarian Universalism and apply it to our lives today. It's an opportunity for community building and spiritual deepening.

Few of us, even those raised Unitarian Universalists, can tell the story of our heritage fluently and connect it with our current challenges and opportunities as a religious people. But this is changing here at Unity as we address questions in the Sources Supper such as these: How did we begin as a religious movement?

What are the key turning points and breakthroughs in our tradition? Who are the martyrs and heroes in our progressive religious journey? How did we come to be a non-creedal faith that nevertheless stands passionately for something in the world? And most important of all: what does this story have to do with how we practice our faith and live our lives today?

The Sources Supper ritual aims to create a deep connection with our Unitarian Universalist heritage via story telling and conversation around a common meal. The stories are about four founding events in UU history plus two key turning points in later history. The conversations are based on questions following each story. An informal meal takes place in the middle. The whole event, including gathering, ritual, and dinner takes about 3.5 hours. The time goes fast.

As mentioned, the Sources Supper is intended to be done year after year until it becomes part of the religious identity and collective memories of those who participate in it. The ritual, which follows an easy-to-use script, works with adults and youth of 12 years and older; we hope to begin piloting a children's version in the spring.

Now the logistics: There will be sign up opportunities beginning in early February to host and participate in a Sources Supper.

Saturday events: February 19 and 26 will be from 6:00-9:30 p.m.

Sunday events: February 20 and 27 will be either in the afternoon: 1:00-4:30 p.m. or the evening: 5:00-8:30 p.m.

Hosting is not burdensome: you just need a table that seats 8-12 people. Everyone shares the reading of the stories. The church provides the scripts and guidelines for the ritual. Simple is the rule of the land for the potluck meal—generally a soup, salad, appetizers, desserts and drinks. We can even provide a recipe for a soup that's been popular at Sources Suppers.

There is a big, bold vision behind the Sources Supper: let this be the last generation of Unitarian Universalists who don't know where they came from. Let the next generation stand inside a tradition they know and love—and then take it to new places.

To read about the origins of the Sources Supper and the key events covered, go to www.SourcesSupper.org. You can look at a copy of the script on this website.



Guerilla Church

Saturday, February 26
9:30 a.m.–Noon

Why is Unitarian Universalism such a tiny movement, when it could be hundreds of times larger? A possible clue to the mystery lies in the peculiar document called the Cambridge Platform of 1648, which was:

- (a) the sly answer to a questionnaire from terrorists;
- (b) a triumph of 17th century spin doctors' art;
- (c) a Declaration of (Religious) Independence that anticipated the Declaration of (Political) Independence by more than a century; and
- (d) an accidental blueprint for our religious ancestors...

This lecture and workshop is offered as part of our annual Heritage Week.

Rick Koyle is a teacher, an attorney, a Unitarian Universalist minister, a writer, and a bar exam coach. He recently returned from New Orleans with a dozen other Unity Church pilgrims who spent a week caulking, spackling, painting, and rehabbing a Katrina-damaged house.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Children's Musical 2011 March 3, 4, and 5

Plan to attend one of the upcoming performances of "Green to Me: Finding the Trees for the Forest," featuring a talented cast of Unity's 5th and 6th graders. Packed with original songs and dances, the show features an environmental theme and vivid storytelling. Colorful characters abound, from forest animals to woodland sprites to real kids.

It's the perfect performance for families with children of all ages — or simply anyone interested in a great show. Can a bully be reformed? Can hugging trees make a difference? What are trees and animals *really* thinking? Come and explore these and other questions.

This production is a unique and impressive effort, one that has become a tradition for the entire Unity community. Now in its 22nd year, the musical gives 5th and 6th graders a chance to tackle a big project and put on a performance in the sanctuary.

Talented adults help too. They compose, direct and choreograph this unique show, along with pulling together sets, costumes and more. This year Sandy Waterman returns with her fabulously catchy tunes, showcasing a range of musical styles. The director and choreographer this year is Mary Blouin-Auffert with the assistance of co-conspirator, co-playwright and former producer Rene Meyer-Grimberg.

On Thursday, March 3 and Friday, March 4, performances are at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, March 5, the performance is at 5:00 p.m. Performances run approximately one hour.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, or \$15 for families. Tickets will be available the last two Sundays in February in the Parish Hall after services, as well as before the performances.

Concerts with a Cause: Two Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Come and hear wonderful musicians who are donating their time so that we might support an important cause that needs our help. A suggested donation of \$10.00-plus is appreciated. However, concerts are free and open to the public. All are welcome!

Please invite friends and family to hear this wonderful music. Plan to stay for the 4:30 p.m. service and soup supper to warm these winter evenings!

Sunday, March 6 • 3:00 p.m. • *Pavia Winds*



Pavia Winds is one of the Midwest's most exciting young chamber music ensembles. Formed in 2005 by musicians from area colleges and universities, the Twin Cities-based group is interested in exploring a variety of repertoire for wind soloists with an increasing focus on contemporary music. Active performers, Pavia Winds

presents concerts and workshops throughout Minnesota and especially enjoys working with students to encourage enthusiasm for chamber music of all kinds. Members include: Emily Sapa, flute; Sarah Carmack,

oboe; Ryan Golden, clarinet; Justin Windschitl, bassoon; Gina Monge, French horn. Unity's Director of Music Ministry, Ruth Palmer, guest pianist.

Sunday, March 27 • 3:00 p.m. • *Unity Singers*

Yes, our very own Unity Singers in a program of favorites from years past and present.



About our "Cause": 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, Inc., a Rondo neighborhood resident and a grandfather to youth living in the community. The Circle of Peace, composed of Totem Town juvenile offenders, parents, grandparents, and community members, has great potential for impacting the community by creating a different, more positive relationship with youth in trouble. After only a few months of meeting in the Circle of Peace, a number of parents have welcomed their incarcerated youth back home. The circle has met once a week at Unity Church since last March, providing dinner hour meals and writing materials to all youth participants for developing their plans for success. The Unity Church Restorative Justice Ministry Team and its community partner, Amicus, both support this exciting new community effort.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Parents' Night Out

Get to know other Unity parents while church provides 2 ½ hours of free childcare! Parents' Night Out will be offered Saturday, February 26, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Volunteers will care for your children ages 6 months through 12 years; the only stipulation is that parents use this time to get to know other adults from Unity! Advance registration is required and spots are limited by our Safe Church policy, so contact Christy Randall by February 19 to sign up your family. The next Parents' Night Out will take place in May – watch your newsletter for the date.

Ministry with Children and Youth

Needs Teachers at All Three Services

Beginning February 27, teachers are needed to serve five consecutive Sundays (March 20 off for Spring Break) in the following roles:

9:00 Art: Make a mosaic as a metaphor for creating community

9:00 Drama: Create a shadow puppet show of the story "Stone Soup"

11:00 Art: Make a mosaic as a metaphor for creating community

11:00 Music: Learn a song together as a metaphor for creating community

4:30 Art: Make a mosaic as a metaphor for creating community

All materials and lesson plans provided. Subs available in case of illness or travel. Contact Kerri in the Church Office to accept one of these roles.

Dates for your calendar:

Wednesday, February 2:

New Family Orientation, 7:15 p.m.
Jr. High Youth Group – Baking

Wednesday, February 9:

Jr. High Youth Group – Social Justice

Sunday, February 13:

Celebration of New Lives, 4:30 p.m. service

Wednesday, February 16:

Jr. High Youth Group – Baking

Sunday, February 20:

No R.E. classes (Presidents' Weekend) – Activities for Kids!

Monday, February 21:

Interfaith Youth Day of Service (at left)

Wednesday, February 23:

Jr. High Youth Group – Social Justice

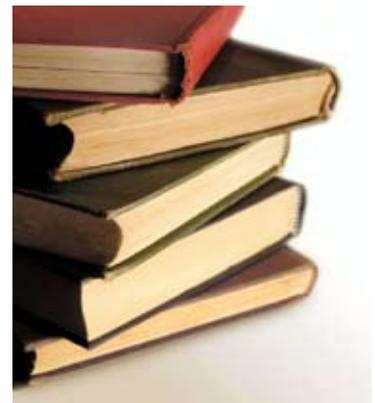
Sunday, February 27:

"Community" Workshop Rotation cycle begins — Teachers needed

Bring Us Your Books! Now Accepting High School Book Sale Donations

The High School youth are accepting donations of books in good condition for our annual fundraiser sale in April.

On Sundays, please leave books (in sturdy bags or boxes) on the cart in the Parish Hall. During the week, leave books on the cart outside the Religious Education Office. Thanks for your support!



Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition
invites youth in 7th-12th grade to the

6th Annual

**INTERFAITH youth
DAY OF SERVICE**

Presidents Day

February 21, 2011 • 9am-4pm

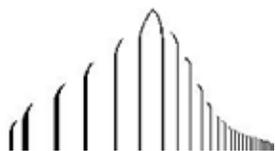
@ Blake School Upper School

511 Kenwood Parkway • Minneapolis 55403

A day of social justice projects and
workshops for leadership in a
multi-faith, multi-cultural world, a day
led by youth, for youth

www.SPACC.org/INTERFAITH

Contact Luke Stevens-Royer by e-mail at luke@unityunitarian.org
by February 11 if you would like to participate.



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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651-228-1456 • FAX: 651-228-0927 • WWW.UNITYUNITARIAN.ORG

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Secret Pals!

Winter Fun for All: Unity Secret Pal Project

Beat the winter blahs by making a new friend at church – secretly!

Janne and Kerri will conduct a Secret Pal exchange during February and March for Unity Church folks of all ages. Enroll in the exchange at the Parish Hall table on January 30 and February 6. Pals' names will be drawn on February 6 and the exchange of notes will begin on February 13. Our focus is not on gifts but on getting to know one another.

The secret exchange will continue through March 27 and Secret Pals will be revealed at a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 2! Instructions will be provided to participants upon enrollment. Contact Kerri at the Church Office with questions.



Governance and Ministry in Large Congregations Large Church Conference Minneapolis March 17-20, 2011



From Thursday through Sunday, March 17-20, 2011, leaders from large Unitarian Universalist congregations will gather to learn and celebrate what is unique about life in a congregation of this size.

The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) 8th national Large Congregations Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. More information, and a listing of workshops, is available online through the UUA. If you are interested in attending, contact Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs.

Unity Church 5th and 6th Grade Children's Musical 2011 *Green to Me: Finding the Trees for the Forest*

On Thursday, March 3 and Friday, March 4 performances are at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, March 5 the performance is at 5 p.m. Performances run approximately one hour.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, or \$15 for families. Tickets will be available the last two Sundays in February in the Parish Hall after services, as well as before the performances. Turn to page 14 for more information!