

commUNITY

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Unity Church—Unitarian

September 2010

Faith

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

In the early teachings of many world religions, the word *faith* appears not as a noun but as a verb. It is a way that we live, a leap that we take, a loyalty that we grow into over time. In the original Buddhist texts, the Pali word for faith meant literally "to place the heart upon."

Our own English word *faith* derives from the Latin word *fides*, meaning fidelity or loyalty, implying a relationship on which we can rely. When we have faith, we are talking about where and on whom we place our deepest trust. We are talking about a commitment we make with our hearts and confirm with our lives.

Of course, like many words in our religious vocabularies, *faith* has sometimes been hijacked and conscripted into service as a judgment, a tool for sorting the faithful from the faithless. As if a line could be drawn between the two, and as if those on the wrong side of the line could be marked with a giant H for their heresy.

Our Unitarian forebears knew better. As Francis David and others reminded us, faith rises from within. It can neither be forced nor judged from the outside, whether by church doctrine or laws of the land. It is a conviction born in the search for truth and the personal discovery of trust and surrender. Or, as the Buddhist writer Sharon Salzberg puts it, faith is "an inner quality that unfolds as we learn to trust our own deepest experience."

What do you trust most deeply – in your life, in the unfolding of history, and in the universe at large? What do you know to be reliable? Is it science

or perhaps society, the common good or the human conscience? Do you have faith in Love or Life itself, in Nature or in God or in the holy ground of being? Do you sometimes say, *I must see it to believe it*, or do you find yourself depending on different ways of seeing? For many of us, navigating life's challenges and changing currents requires that we come to trust some combination of the above. "Faithful living" can be a matter of learning how and when to rely on each of the loyalties engraved within our hearts.

My friend Kay tells about one such lesson in her youth. Having lost the vision in one eye as an infant, she learned at the age of 10 that she would soon lose her sight in the other eye as well. It was a frightening truth delivered by her doctors on a September day, the kind that could steal your inner balance at any age and leave you longing for solid ground. Not two hours later, though, Kay recalls how her faith was restored. As she sat at the kitchen table, still reeling from this news, her father handed her a basket of ripe pears. *Close your eyes*, he told her gently, *and pick the best one*. Reaching into the basket, eyes closed, she carefully chose a pear and heard her father's immediate delight. *That's right*, he exclaimed. *You're going to be all right*.

"Faith is the evidence of things unseen," the Christian scriptures tell us. It is the mountain-moving potential buried within the mustard seed. It is the conviction that the long arc of the universe bends toward justice, even if our nearsightedness sometimes prevents us from spotting it. "Faith is not," author Joanna Russ points out, "something that

turns out to be right or wrong, like a gambler's bet: it's an act, an intention . . ." It is a quality of being that calls us to be loyal to our heart's inner leaning, even and especially when facing the unknown.

So close your eyes and consider: On what do you place your heart? To what and to whom are you called to be faithful? What are the convictions rising from within you, and what would it mean to live in loyalty to them?

~ Karen Hering
Consulting Literary Minister

Worship Theme Resources

BOOKS

Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience, by Sharon Salzberg (Riverhead, 2002)

Faith and Belief, by Wilfred Cantwell Smith (Princeton Press, 1987)

A Chosen Faith, by John A. Buehrens and Forrest Church (Beacon, 1998)

The Sacred Depths of Nature, by Ursula Goodenough (Oxford, 1998)

The Courage to Be, by Paul Tillich (Yale, 1952; 2nd edition, 2000)

2010-11 THEOLOGICAL THEMES

September: Faith

October: Longing

November: Covenant

December: Wonder

January: Justice

February: Surrender

March: Evil

April: Freedom

May: Peace

June: Wisdom

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

There are some dreams that can't be set aside. Like a love that will not let us go there are some "projects" we keep returning to despite (or perhaps because of) their difficulty.

"On July 11, 2010, at 60 years of age, Diana Nyad successfully completed her triumphant return to long-distance swimming with a consecutive 24-hour swim through the Gulf Stream's open-water off the coast of Key West, Florida, without a shark cage. While the 24-hour swim is an enormous challenge, it's merely the beginning for Nyad. In August, she will attempt to achieve her life-long dream to be the first person to swim the 103 miles from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage. She writes: 'Until a year ago, I hadn't swum a stroke for 31 years. Swimmer's burnout gripped me to the point that I could have sworn I would never, ever swim a lap again in my life. But approaching 60 last year threw me into the existential angst of wondering what I had done with my life. I felt choked by how little time seemed left. I started swimming a few laps, just to take some pressure off the knees from all the other activities I enjoy.'" (www.diananyad.com)

Nyad, a legendary long-distance swimmer, was a recent guest on Neal Conan's MPR radio show, "Talk of the Nation." As the formal interview ended Conan, as is his practice, asked for feedback from listeners. He said, "We want to know what the unmet challenges are in your life." I was alone in the car on my way back to church from a hospital call. I didn't plan to call 800-989-8255 or e-mail them at talk@npr.org but my answer to the question came immediately to mind.

The primary unmet challenge in my life is to fulfill the promise of our faith by building a genuinely inclusive, multicultural, multigenerational, liberal church. It sounds so pompous, so impossible. But there it is. That's the unmet challenge of my life. That's the unmet challenge of our faith. The first caller who responded to Conan's request talked about finally deciding to climb Mt. Whitney after many years of considering the possibility. Another planned to hitch-hike the entire length of Highway 1. A third caller spoke about writing the novel that had haunted her inner life for 30 years.

I realized my unmet challenge was decidedly different. The callers' challenges were personal. The unmet challenge of my life remains unmet because it isn't only mine to meet. As deeply as I long to see that old good dream come true, I know full well there's no way I can do it, or we can do it — without each and all of you, without each and all of us and many others we have yet to meet. This is holy, joyful work we do together. Have faith, have fun, see you in church.

Yours,
Rob Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Kaylee Rose
and
Zoe Isabella
born July 11, 2010
to parents
Kat and Darren Meyer

In Memoriam

George Henry Tesar
1919 – July 24, 2010

Church Calendar Update

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 6, in observance of Labor Day.

On September 12, 2010, we will return to our three-service Sunday schedule with services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Marathon Alert

It's autumn again and the Twin Cities Marathon will wind its way along Summit Avenue the morning of Sunday, October 3. Many roads will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please plan alternate routes and allow extra time to reach Unity Church that morning.



Unity Church Welcomes Rev. Meg Barnhouse Pledge Drive 2011 • Kick-off Weekend

Friday, September 24 • 7:00 p.m. • Café Unity with Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood
Sunday, September 26 • Worship Services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Meg Barnhouse grew up in North Carolina and Philadelphia, and she has lived in Spartanburg, SC since 1981. A graduate of Duke University and Princeton Theological Seminary, she retains a small private pastoral counseling practice while serving as the full time minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg. She travels nationwide as a speaker, singer/songwriter and humorist. Meg is the mother of two wise, funny and handsome sons, ages 18 and 21. Meg is a commentator for NC Public Radio on a segment called "Radio Free Bubba" and has also been heard on National Public Radio's "Weekend All Things Considered." Her five books are compilations of stories from the radio. Her newest CD, "Mango Thoughts in a Meatloaf Town," features her original songs including "All Will Be Well."

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

September Worship Calendar

September 5 • One Service at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

September 12

A Merging of Waters

Come merge the waters of the world in a time of reunion as the entire church family gathers to welcome the coming of harvest. The ministers will be joined by our beloved friend, musician Peter Mayer, and our 2010-11 Hallman Intern, Jason Seymour. Come experience again the quality of innocence and enthusiasm the Buddhist teacher Sharon Salzberg calls "bright faith," as we begin a new church year together. **Bring the water you have collected from your travels (or backyard) for this annual water ritual.**

Our annual all congregation worship service and picnic will take place on Sunday, October 10, at 10:00 a.m. on Harriet Island. Turn to the back cover for more information.

September 19

Enduring Faith — Rob Eller-Isaacs

The traditional text for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, tells of a father's faith and a mother's silence. The binding of Isaac is surely one of the most troubling stories told in Hebrew Scripture. This year for our High Holy Day services Rob and Worship Associate Amy Kujawski will struggle to shed new light on the old strong story.

September 26

Speaking Up and Throwing Down — Rev. Meg Barnhouse

We UUs sometimes get confused about our ideal of affirming the worth and dignity of every person, and we unwittingly extend it to feeling that we have to affirm the worth and dignity of every idea. How do we stand for the good news of Unitarian Universalism? How do we get mouthier and have more fun? ***This special Sunday worship service is the culmination of the kick-off weekend for the 2011 Unity Church Pledge Drive. See page 2 for more information about Rev. Barnhouse.***

September Offering Recipients

September 5

Project for Pride in Living Emergency Repair Program

Project for Pride in Living serves low-income individuals and families by providing grants to help homeowners afford critical repairs which, if left unattended, would render their homes uninhabitable. The majority of Emergency Repair participants are referred by the Greater Twin Cities United Way's 211 Resource Directory and the Salvation Army. In 2009, this program provided financial assistance to 21 extremely low-income families and individuals whose incomes averaged about \$13,500.

September 12

The Youth Farm and Market Project (YFMP)

YFMP is about youth gardening, cooking, nutrition, entrepreneurship, bringing quality healthy food to urban neighborhoods, and exploring culinary traditions from around the world. Since 1995, YFMP has provided year-round development programming for almost 500 youth ages 9-18 with the youth farming nine garden sites over two acres of urban land in Minneapolis and St. Paul and by cooking and distributing over 11,000 pounds of fresh local produce. YFMP also engages over 300 youth in neighborhood and after-school-based activities including gardening, cooking, and taking field trips to farms, restaurants, and food banks.

September 19

Center for Victims of Torture

CVT exists to heal the wounds of government-sponsored torture of individuals, their families, and communities. They are based in the Twin Cities and have healing centers in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and in refugee camps around the world. Unity Church has supported CVT's efforts to ban our government's use of torture and has also provided coats, art supplies, meeting space, individual work with clients, massage therapy materials, money, and volunteer time gardening and painting the St. Paul Healing Center. As a congregation we've received the opportunity for spiritual growth as we've seen the triumph of the human spirit in the clients we have supported.

September 26

Summit University Living at Home Block Nurse Program (SULAH)

With an office on the second floor of the Unity Church building, SULAH serves seniors living in their own homes in the Summit University and Frogtown neighborhoods. Some of the services provided by SULAH include education and exercise programs, transportation, friendly visits, arranging for in-home nursing and personal care. This past summer, SULAH delivered vegetables donated by the Unity Church Children's garden and other community members to neighboring seniors.

PLEDGE DRIVE 2011 / HALLMAN MINISTERIAL INTERN

From this House to the World

Chris Crosby Schmidt, Pledge Team

As I write this, the sun is setting on a beautiful Minnesota summer day. The long, hot, sticky days have finally broken, not with violent storms, but with strong but gentle breezes. The day was cool, sunny, and dry—perfect.

I moved to Minnesota from Texas 14 years ago, and I still haven't quite come to terms with the sense of pressure summer elicits in me. In San Antonio, winter simply meant temperatures in the 30s and 40s – not enough to curtail most activities (although sand volleyball, once my passion, was a little tough). Almost any project you wanted to undertake could be done at any time of the year.

Here in the Great White North, though, the sounding of the school bell in June is like a starting gun to me: Go NOW, because there are only so many days until the snow and freezing temperatures shut things down, when all outdoor projects must end and indoor hobbies begin again.

When the weather was hot and sticky and (I'm embarrassed to admit, given my roots) almost unbearable, it was easy to believe that summer would last forever. Today's cool edge, though, reminded me that change is just around the corner. Time to switch focus again.

Big on my list of Fall Stuff is the 2011 Pledge Drive. We'll kick things off in late September, with a series of events featuring the wonderful Meg Barnhouse. Starting September 24, she'll sing, speak, read, and preach all weekend, culminating in Sunday's services. (See page 2!)

Then things begin in earnest: Canvassers will begin contacting members of the congregation to meet and talk about pledging for the 2011 budget year. These conversations can take place anywhere: in someone's home, at a coffee shop, at the church, wherever is comfortable. Our goal is to have a face-to-face visit with everyone who participates in the life of the church. The in-person conversation is important: It further strengthens the already strong ties within this community, and helps people focus on what Unity Church means in their lives as they make decisions about their monetary support. We hope that everyone will choose to participate in these visits.

There will also be new ways to make your pledge to Unity. We'll have more information about that as the time nears.

The pledge drive will wrap up on October 31, in time for the new pledge information to be included in the operating budget and presented to the congregation in late November.

Fall brings the resumption of responsibilities, true. But even as it marks the end of summer, it also brings the perennial promise of new beginnings. In a similar and very real way, the pledge drive carries the promise of the coming year for the church. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to reflect on the unique place Unity holds in their lives, and the work it does in the world.



Jason Seymour

2010-11 Hallman
Ministerial Intern

Hello Unity Church!

I am so pleased to be here, serving as your Hallman Ministerial Intern. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from each of you over

this next year, and I look forward to serving our community—and our world—together.

I plan to use this newsletter column as a space for public reflection, something like a cross between a journal and an oped page. In this first column I will offer a brief introduction; subsequent columns will address worship themes, current events, etc. As with any of my efforts, I welcome dialog and conversation. I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible throughout the year.

My name is Jason Seymour. I am thirty-two years old. I was born and raised (mostly) in New Jersey.

I am a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. I received a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in May 2009. While at Union, I developed a strong interest in religious ethics, especially regarding economics. Last year, I designed and led a small-group adult religious education course entitled "Inherent Worth: A Brief History of UU Economic Thought". The experience was one of the most exciting moments in my professional and intellectual development to date. In 2008, I completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (NY). I am also a trained youth advisor and OWL teacher.

I enjoy music and sports. In New York, I was performing (trombone) with a bilingual, Venezuelan ska-reggae band called King Changó (available on iTunes). I play basketball and softball, including a stint as a player-coach for a Unitarian softball team.

I am a husband and a new father. Jen—my love, my friend—and I have been married two very full years. Jen is a yoga instructor and an avid knitter. We both love the outdoors, and we are looking forward to exploring the wilds of our new Northern surroundings. We welcomed our first child—a son, Jonathan Harry—into our lives on June 24, 2010. Every day is new; every smile, a blessing.

Again, I truly look forward to our time together this year. Thank you for the opportunity to learn, work, live and laugh with you here at Unity Church. This is a sacred place indeed.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Beyond Our Walls: Touring Frogtown and Old Rondo

Sue Babcock, Trustee

On Saturday, June 12, an enthusiastic group numbering 20-plus embarked on a three-and-a-half hour tour of the Frogtown and Old Rondo neighborhoods. This was the second year that the Board of Trustees and Anti-racism Team joined forces to sponsor this fun and informative tour of the neighborhoods bordering Unity Church.

We began the day at Unity in the Parish Hall enjoying conversation and breakfast that included fabulous croissants from Trung Nam French Bakery which we later passed by on University Avenue... a must stop for a divine pastry. Following breakfast we boarded a vintage bus and were regaled with nostalgic stories by our driver who spoke of driving the bus when it was new and regularly being used in Minneapolis some 40-plus years ago.

The tour proceeded to the potential site of Frogtown Farm—13 unused acres of lovely green space on a hill in the midst of Frogtown. We heard Unity Church member Patricia Ohmans and spouse Tony Schmitz (Frogtown Gardens members) share ideas and dreams for a park and urban demonstration garden as we walked the grounds, currently owned by Wilder Foundation.

Next stop, Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation on Dale Street. The center was in full work mode with volunteers beautifying the outdoor space with plantings. An unanticipated connection was made here since the CDC's Executive Director is Unity Church member Jill Henriksen. We were warmly welcomed and learned more about what the Greater Frogtown CDC offers.

City Councilperson Melvin Carter III boarded the bus at this junction and for the next hour we learned much from this energizing and engaging young man. He brought a sense of hope and activism regarding the role that faith organizations can have in partnering with schools and other groups within a shared community. He spoke of developing a project involving Jackson and Maxfield elementary schools similar to the much lauded Harlem project. He spoke with pride of the many cultures, languages, countries and diverse populations represented in this neighborhood. We heard about the mixed residential/business structure currently being built at University and Dale and how the neighborhood is addressing impending changes that will accompany light rail along University Avenue. Hearing him speak with such passion about the neighborhood he grew up in and what he sees as the future of Frogtown was infectious.

After Melvin departed we spent the remainder of our time at Hmongtown Market on Como. This lively market serving the Hmong community was an opportunity to sample lunch offerings—bubble tea, stir fry, spring rolls, pho, and for at least one adventurous eater, something edible that left several us asking, "How is that?"

Other points of interest passed along the way included Golden Thyme coffee shop on Selby, the Western Sculpture Park and the photos of Wing Young Huie's University Avenue Project. Since the tour, I have found myself wondering what I've been missing by not more intentionally exploring the Frogtown and Old Rondo neighborhoods. I am glad that Unity Church is "looking north" and we will be thinking about how to make this tour or some variant of it an annual event in coming years.

Nominations Open for 2011 Board of Trustees

Would you like to more fully engage in the life and mission of Unity Church-Unitarian? Consider serving on the board of trustees! Board service is an excellent way to learn about church operations, build relationships with church leaders, learn policy governance, and gain appreciation for Unity's role in the wider community.

Nominations are open for three trustees who will serve three year terms that begin following Unity's annual meeting in November 2010. We are looking for nominees with skills, experience and/or passion for some or all of the following:

- Leadership and Strategic Planning
- Relationship Building and Organizational Development
- Governance
- Financial Management and Fundraising

To qualify for board service, you must be a pledging member in good standing. Nominations will be considered by a nominating committee consisting of Laura Smidzik, current board chair; Carol Bauer, past board chair; Bob Utke; and Sally Foster.

Nominations are open through the end of September. Candidates will be screened and evaluated in October with selections made in November. Serving on the Board is an impactful way to live out your values while ensuring a strong foundation that can sustain and grow this vibrant community. Please contact Carol Bauer, 651-295-3277 or caroljbauer@gmail.com, to express your interest or to recommend someone else as a candidate for the Board.

Pledge Team Still Recruiting Canvassers!

Reaching every member of the congregation will take a LOT of canvassers. If you're interested in doing this important work, please contact Barbara Hubbard at barbarah@unityunitarian.org.

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Unity Men's Group

The Hidden Cost of Male Privilege

Monday, September 20 • 7:00 p.m.

\$5 Suggested Donation

Open to men and women.

Guest presenter Jim Lovestar from the Twin Cities Men's Center will lead an interactive workshop for men and women at Unity Church as an opportunity to gain new insights into changing masculinity.

Fellowship Groups

Men's Retirement Group: Monday, September 13 and 27, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

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

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

Afterthoughts: Sundays after the 11:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Unity Men's Group: Monday, September 20. See ad above. Contact: Nels Otto at 651-484-4590

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

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

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

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

Unity Book Club: Tuesday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. Open to everyone!

Job Transition Networking Group: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Wendy Frieze at wendyfrieze@mac.com

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 due to the economic recession. The focus is on both the immediate job search process and the bigger picture of redefining our roles going forward with the new economy. Contact Wendy Frieze at wendyfrieze@mac.com for more information about this group or if you would like to participate.

Summit-University Planning Council Elections

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

Caregivers Group

Thursday, September 16 • 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.

Boston Pilgrimage • October 23–28, 2010

You are invited to join our ministers for a pilgrimage to the Unitarian Universalist holy sites! We'll visit Plimouth Plantation, Harvard Divinity School, the Oracles of Concord, Walden Pond and the historic churches of Boston. There will be time for sightseeing as well as conversation and reflection. The cost will be \$850-\$1,000 not including airfare. If you are interested in participating in this pilgrimage, please attend the informational meeting on Sunday, August 29, at 11:15 a.m. or contact Song Thao at the Church Office to have your name added to the list.

Pathway to Membership at Unity Church

A Series of Three Classes

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

Wednesday, October 13 • 7:10 – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 17 • 12:10 – 1:00 p.m.

Finding Yourself at Unity includes Unitarian Universalist and Unity Church history (including a tour of the church), opportunities to share parts of your religious journey, and discussion of the expectations and benefits of membership. Upcoming classes:

Saturday, September 18 • 9:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. • Includes a potluck lunch

Tuesday, November 16, 23, and 30 • 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. • Light supper provided

Committing to Unity is designed for those who are ready to make the membership commitment. This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. Upcoming classes:

Saturday, September 25 • 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 4 • 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office (julieh@unityunitarian.org) to sign up for the Pathway to Membership series.

LITERARY MINISTRY / UNITY LIBRARIES



What's New at Unity Libraries?

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

Lord, it is time. The summer was very big. Lay thy shadow on the sundials, and on the meadows let the winds go loose. Command the last fruits that they shall be full; give them another two more southerly days, press them on to fulfillment and drive the last sweetness into the heavenly wine. — Rainer Maria Rilke

Well, even if you are not as happy to see summer end as Rilke, September is looking to be a great time at Unity Church.

Café Unity Featuring Meg Barnhouse • Friday, September 24 • 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Meg Barnhouse is interim minister of the UU Congregation of Princeton, New Jersey, a columnist for *uuworld.org*, humorist, singer-songwriter, and commentator for "Radio Free Bubba" on North Carolina Public Radio; she is the author of several books, including *Did I Say That Out Loud? Musings from a Questioning Soul*. Recently she wrote:

It is difficult to walk a good spiritual path solo. It helps to be in relationship to a community where your wisdom can be made more whole, challenged, and where it can have fresh life breathed into it by touching it, again and again, to its roots, by bringing it together with the wisdom others carry with them.

If that doesn't describe Unity Church, then the *Karma Fairy* is playing tricks. Come and hear from one of the special UU ministers of our time. Rev. Barnhouse will also be joined by Kiya Heartwood. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

You read *Cairns*. Now contribute to it! Deadline: September 20, 2010

Harper Lee said, "There's just one kind of folks. Folks." There is just one kind of writer, and one kind of artist, too. That's you and all of us who put pen to paper or who translate the world into images or music.

Cairns is your literary journal to make of what you will, and one way to keep covenant with each other in finding truth and meaning, promoting justice and compassion, and encouraging spiritual unfolding. To submit work or contact us with questions, send e-mail to literaryjournal@unityunitarian.org, or look for us in the Parish Hall, or drop your submissions in the Literary Journal mailbox.

September Worship Theme: *Faith*

It sounds simple enough—we all know what it is, or at least we know when we do NOT have it. Yet, "faith" can be particularly rich in discovery. In the Whitman Children's Library, consider reading with your child *A Faith Like Mine: A Celebration of the World's Religions, Seen through the Eyes of Children*. For adults, look in the Anderson Library or the Bookstall for *The Cathedral of the World* by Forrest Church, in which he helps us understand faith in the 21st century. Look in the Unity LibraryThing catalog for many more resources for children and adults: www.librarything.com/catalog/UnityChurch.

Unity Church Book Club

The Unity Church Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14. The book they will be discussing is *Claiming the City* by Mary Lethert Wingerd. **Everyone is welcome — even if you haven't read the book!**

On October 12, the Book Club will discuss *Day* by A.L. Kennedy

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.

OPEN PAGE Writing Session

Sunday, September 19

2:00–4:00 p.m. • Unity Church

Reflection Topic: *Faith*

Free; RSVP karen@unityunitarian.org

In the early Buddhist, Jewish and Christian texts, faith is not a noun but a verb. It is a way that we live, a leap that we take. In the Pali language of the original Buddhist texts, it meant literally "to place the heart upon." This writing session, first offered last June, explores faith as something we do. How and where do we offer our hearts? And what does it mean when we do? The session is free and open to all. Registration not required, but an e-mail to karen@unityunitarian.org is requested to help in planning.

The Awakened Heart:

Monthly OPEN PAGE Sessions

Tuesday Evenings • 7:00–9:00 p.m.

September 28, October 26,

November 23 and December 7

Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul

For fees and registration, visit:

www.wisdomwayscenter.org

On-line literary resources

For more information about the *Faithful Words* literary ministry and additional writing programs visit www.unityunitarian.org/WritingMinistry.htm. To receive e-mail notifications of upcoming literary programs 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.

UNITY TOMORROW / ANTI-RACISM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Unity Tomorrow Update

The *Unity Tomorrow* Ministry Team completed its initial work in late spring and four new *Unity Tomorrow* teams are now being formed. The four teams include: Communications, Current Site, Second Site and Capital Campaign. All four teams will begin their work by helping the Executive Team to develop a team charter specifying scope, reporting structure, and work product.

The pre-design process is underway. Architects, Miller-Dunwiddie, led by Paul May, met on Tuesday, August 10, with the Executive Team, Lorelee Wederstrom, and Bill Lowell to lay out the pre-design schedule. On September 8-10, staff teams augmented by invited lay leaders will engage in a programming process to refine anticipated needs and so inform the planning process. Seven areas will be addressed: worship, music, religious education, community outreach, community usage, infrastructure and hospitality. Once the programming meetings have been held, the architects will assemble present planning documents and blueprints, conduct a code and zoning analysis, and develop 3-5 possible scenarios. The *Unity Tomorrow* Current Site Team and the Executive Team will then narrow the scenarios down to 2-3 which will be sent to the consulting general contractor for cost estimation. The final report of the pre-design team is due in mid-November.

The Board of Trustees has authorized the Executive Team to open a line of credit to pay for the pre-design process and conduct a full audit prior to formal consideration of the capital drive. A grant proposal has been submitted to the St. Paul Foundation requesting funds which would be used for the feasibility study, support staff, and other general costs associated with fund raising.

The next edition of the *Unity Tomorrow* Newsletter is scheduled for mid-September and will include information about how to become involved in the planning process.

A Busy Summer for the ARLT

In June, 27 Unity Church folks boarded a vintage bus for the *Beyond Our Walls* tour, sponsored by the Anti-Racism Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees. We traveled as far north as Thomas Avenue, from Lexington on the west to Marion on the east, and down University and Selby Avenues, noting places and items of interest in between. The tour included a stop at the Wilder-owned property at Milton and Lafond, where we heard from Patricia Ohmans and Tony Schmitz about the vision for reusing the site. http://www.frogtowngardens.org/Frogtown_Farm.html

We stopped at the Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation (www.greaterfrogtowncdc.org), on Dale Street just north of University Avenue, to meet up with Melvin Carter III, our city council member. A group from Bolder Options was planting a community garden—flowers and shrubs in one area, and vegetables in another. We were invited back any time we want to help maintain the gardens!

We stopped briefly at a small, plain home in the Frogtown neighborhood, the site of Sharing Korner food shelf. Denise Desjarlais talked about the importance of the food shelf, which is supported by Unity Church members. Denise, a Unity member, serves on the board of Sharing Korner.

And why is it called Frogtown? The Ramsey County Historical Society shares some thoughts here: <http://www.rchs.com/neighborhoods/frogtown.htm>

Councilmember Carter joined us on the bus and gave a mini-lesson on Ward 1, which is St. Paul's most racially and economically diverse ward. He also shared the work that has been going on to build stronger family and neighborhood supports around Maxfield and Jackson Magnet Schools. With a young child entering kindergarten next year, Melvin shared his very personal interest in quality schools and safe neighborhoods. His Facebook page has a link to a recent article on TC Daily Planet: <http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/news/2010/05/02/creating-maxfield-jackson-childrens-zone-st-paul>

And of course, all along University Avenue we saw part of Wing Young Huie's installation of photographs, the *University Avenue Project*, which runs through October 2010. www.theuniversityavenueproject.com

Wing asked a variety of people to write their answer to one of the following questions on a chalkboard, and then he took a picture of them and chalkboard.

- *Who are you?*
- *What advice would you give a stranger?*
- *How do you think others see you?*
- *What don't others see?*
- *How has race affected you?*

The Project's central landmark site at 1433 University features a two-hour projection of the pictures, accompanied by music from local musicians. The show runs Wednesday through Sunday nights beginning at twilight, with the artist present on Wednesdays. A group from Unity Church gathered at the projection site on Wednesday, July 21.

The third annual *Faith Float* was a resounding success. Part of the Rondo Days Parade on Saturday, July 17, the float included about 40 folks from several local churches including Unity Church, Morningstar Baptist, and St. Paul Reformation, singing up a storm and having a good time. Members of the Anti-Racism and the Racial Justice teams helped organize the logistics and participated in the parade.

It's been a busy summer!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

What's Up?

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

from David Byfield and Marty Rossmann, Unity Church UUSC Representatives

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the connection between the UUSC and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)? The mission and purposes of both are grounded in Unitarian Universalist (UU) principles but the UUSC is not part of—nor receives financial support from—the UUA. The UUSC is an international human rights organization, putting into action the principles of Unitarian Universalism and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Do the UUSC and the UUA work together? The UUSC and the UUA sometimes work together to put UU principles into action, for example in the response to the crisis in Haiti and in support of the New Orleans rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

What are the Focus Areas for the UUSC?

1. Rights in Humanitarian Crises – All people affected by humanitarian crises have an equal right to aid and assistance with dignity.
2. Economic Justice – This is essential for securing basic human rights, alleviating local and global poverty and achieving a more peaceful and just world.
3. Civil liberties – These universal rights protect individuals from abuse by government power. The focus is on strengthening democratic processes.
4. Environmental Justice – Access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, affordable and physically accessible water for personal and domestic use is a human right.

What are "hot" issues for UUSC right now?

- On Monday, August 9, a letter was sent from the UUSC to New York City Mayor Bloomberg supporting the Islamic mosque and community center proposed for Lower Manhattan. The concern is for religious tolerance and the support of voices of moderate Islam, which hold the key to defeating extremism.
- UUSC economic justice partner Fernando Garcia is in Phoenix supporting the drive for human and immigrant rights.
- In Haiti, the UUSC reaches groups of people who are at risk of being left out or overlooked by traditional relief and recovery operations.
- The UUSC is gravely concerned about the massive flooding in Pakistan and saddened by the loss of life. Because relief efforts have largely been robust, the UUSC has decided, after careful deliberation, not to launch a relief fund to aid Pakistan flood recovery at this time.

How can I get involved with the UUSC?

1. Visit www.uusc.org often for news from around the world.
2. Become a member and a Human Rights Defender. More on this in the next issue of *commUNITY*.
3. Participate in Guest at Your Table. Information will be forthcoming about this project that brings people together for social justice.
4. Join the UUSC "team." We are in the early stages of formation. Our current goals are to educate the Unity congregation about the UUSC, to increase membership in the UUSC, to partner with existing Unity projects with similar foci, to engage different generations of the Unity Church congregation in human rights action and advocacy through the UUSC. Call or e-mail either David (651-659-7563 or DBYF@aol.com) or Marty (651-60-4370 or rossm001@umn.edu) to help us weave our priorities and projects.

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, September 8. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, September 15.

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. **September 19 suggested items:** canned fruit.



5th Annual Unity Church New Orleans Pilgrimage

Join with other members and friends of Unity Church for the 5th annual New Orleans Pilgrimage from November 6-13.

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

If you are interested in participating or learning more about this pilgrimage, please contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sing in a Unity Choir!

Consider becoming a 'singing family': your child in the Children's Choir and you in Unity Choir!

First Rehearsals:

Children's Choir (grades 1 – 5): Sunday, September 19, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Foote Room. Kathleen Radspinner, director

Unity Choir (adult, high school and beyond): Thursday, September 9, from 7:30–9:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Ruth Palmer, director

Unity Singers (auditioned membership): Tuesday, September 14, from 7:30–9:30 p.m. in the Foote Room. Ruth Palmer, director

New Offerings for Fall 2010!

▼ ▼ ▼

4:30 p.m. Service "Walk-In" Choir (all singers, 1st grade and up!): from 3:30–4:15 p.m. on the following Sundays: September 26, October 24, and November 21. Come and meet together for a 45-minute rehearsal, then sing in the 4:30 service immediately following rehearsal. It could be a folk song with guitar, a round, an African call and response, etc. This is an opportunity for all those that would love to sing but just cannot make regular choir rehearsals.

4:30 p.m. Service "Carmina Singers" (adult, high school and beyond): from 3:30–4:15 p.m.; rehearsing Sunday, December 5 and December 19; sing on Sunday, December 19. This is a one-time-short-project choir that will require more than one rehearsal before singing in the 4:30 p.m. service. Come and enjoy preparing and singing some wonderful holiday music!

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

Your Unity Church Music Staff

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful music staff working with us throughout the year. I want to take this opportunity to remind you of who is on our music staff, to say "thank you," and to welcome two new members in this 2010-2011 season.

First, a special "thank you" to Kathleen Bartholomay for her continuing work as our Summer Music Coordinator. And, words of deep gratitude to her for her 11 years as accompanist for Unity Choir. Though she will continue as Summer Music Coordinator she is also transitioning into other activities in her life and will not continue as accompanist. We are grateful for her dedication and generous sharing of her talents during these years with us. Kathleen writes:

Just a note of gratitude for the past eleven years I've accompanied for Unity's Adult Choir. I've so enjoyed my experience of music making with the choir community and will take with me all the rich musical moments we've shared. It's truly been an honor and privilege. Unity is fortunate to be blessed with a wonderful music presence. May its music ministry continue to flourish and provide beauty and meaning to this special community and beyond for years to come.

We would like to welcome Kathy Kraulik as our new Unity Choir accompanist. Kathy Kraulik enjoys a multi-faceted musical career as a free-lance pianist in the Twin Cities. She performs frequently as a collaborative pianist in recitals, has performed with the Guthrie Theater and Theatre de la June Lune, and also works as an art song and opera coach, choral accompanist, and piano teacher. She has served as the official pianist for the Metropolitan Opera's district and regional auditions since 2000, has performed with the Minnesota Opera's educational tours, and currently works with students in the Minnesota Opera's *Project Opera* program. For the past four summers she has served as music director and pianist for opera scenes at *La Musica Lirica*, a training program for opera singers in Novafeltria, Italy. Kathy is thrilled to join the music team at Unity Church!

Many of you are familiar with both the singing and conducting talents of Jeffrey Hess, Unity Choir tenor section leader. Jeff is taking a year sabbatical and we welcome a talented young tenor to work with us in the choir this year. Adam Diekhoff has studied classical voice at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music as well as Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. He has performed with Michigan Opera Theatre at The Detroit Opera House and will be performing this season with Minnesota Opera. He has been a section leader and soloist for churches in Racine, WI, Cincinnati, OH, Nashville, TN, and also at the Unitarian Universalist church of Ann Arbor, MI. He is currently working on repertoire for the upcoming audition season and is looking forward to working with a congregation with such a well known music program.

We are delighted to welcome back our other staff members listed below. They each bring unique and outstanding support and talents to our music program!

Teresa Tierney – Unity Choir soprano section leader

KrisAnne Weiss – Unity Choir alto section leader

Bryan Janssens – Unity Choir bass section leader

A special welcome back to Kathleen Radspinner who offers a Children's Choir program that is noted for its excellence and joy.

Many thanks, as always, to you, the members and friends of Unity Church who support and participate in these programs. And to the many volunteer musicians who grace us with the generous gift of their talents!

Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH / PARISH HALL ARTISTS

Last Chance to Register for Religious Education Before Sunday School Starts!

New and returning families! Would you like your child to participate in Religious Education, which begins on September 19? Please join us for our Orientation and Registration session on Wednesday, September 1, at 7:00 p.m. Childcare is provided. One parent should attend for each family.

If you can't attend the September 1 session, please join us for the October 6 registration; your child will be enrolled in time to start Sunday School on October 17.

Comparative Mythologies Course Needs Instructors!

Beginning September 19, Unity Church will offer a course in Joseph Campbell's approach to mythology in popular culture. Teachers are needed to guide discussions with a class of 11- to 13-year-olds at both the 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. services. All lesson plans and materials will be provided. Resources will include *The Power of Myth*, *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter* and other stories and films. Teams of six instructors mean flexible scheduling! Course ends January 16. Contact Kerri at the Church Office for more information.

Helpful Reminders: How to do Sundays with Kids

Here are some tips about where and when your children or youth should be during Religious Education:

Nursery

- Infants and toddlers ages 6 months (and sitting up) through 3 years can be signed in to the nursery starting 15 minutes before each service.
- No registration required.
- Label all diaper bags and personal belongings.
- Please take a pager or leave your cell phone number.
- Collect your little ones immediately after worship.

Spirit Play

- Registered children ages 3-K can be signed in to their Spirit Play preschool class beginning 10 minutes before the service.
- Check to make sure two TEACHERS are in the room; if not, stay with your child until they arrive.
- Nametags are in the pocket charts on the door. Leave nametags in the pockets when you leave.
- Collect your preschooler immediately after worship.

Workshop Rotation

- 9:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. – Registered children in Grades 1-6 should be escorted to the Ames Chapel starting 10 minutes before worship.
- Check to make sure two JOURNEY GUIDES are in the Chapel; if not, stay with your child until they arrive.
- Nametags will be distributed on the first Sunday of R.E. After that, parents are responsible for using the pocket charts near each exit to store and retrieve nametags each Sunday. For safety and community-building reasons, please assure that your child wears a nametag while in the church building.
- Collect your child from their Workshop (varies each week, check signage) 15 minutes after the end of worship (10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.).

Junior High (Grades 6, 7 and 8)

- Junior High youth are permitted to escort themselves to and from classes.
- Wear a nametag while in the church building for reasons of safety and community-building.
- Parents should check with their youth or teachers to see if any important communication was sent home with students.

September Parish Hall Artists

Contexture:

A Collaborative Exhibition of Poetry by Kirsten Dierking and Textile Art by Kimber Olson

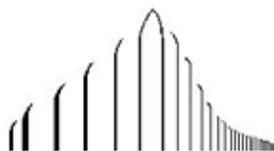
The word "contexture" is defined as "the process or manner of being woven together." In late 2008, while serving as writer- and artist-in-residence at a local art center Kirsten and Kimber discovered common themes, rhythms and textures running through their work. The synergies resonated deeply, and led to a collaboration where Kimber created art in response to a selection of poems written by Kirsten.

Last September the exhibit "Contexture" was the culmination of their shared residency experience, and it sparked a desire to continue presenting work together. The intent of an integrated presentation of poetry and textiles is to enrich the viewer's experience of both word and image.

Most recently, the exhibit was at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, where Kimber recently completed a program in Theology and the Arts. Much of the work exhibited at Unity Church is from the original collaboration, however, new poems and textile art have been incorporated. Similarly, themes of fluidity and the nature of change are woven through the work that is presented.

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**A Special
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Meg Barnhouse**



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

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

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



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All God's Critters

Save the Date! Rain or Shine!

Sunday, October 10 • 10:00 a.m.

All congregation worship and picnic at Harriet Island!

- Bring your own picnic lunch as well as a favorite dish to share with others sitting near you. Beverages will be provided.
- Nursery care for children ages three and under will be provided during the worship service. Harriet Island is handicap accessible.
- This is a special opportunity for the entire Unity Church congregation to worship together so there will be NO Religious Education and it will be the only service on October 10.

Location: Harriet Island is located approximately .5 miles west of Wabasha Street on Plato Boulevard - right across the Mississippi River from downtown Saint Paul.

Parking: lot entrance is at Plato and Ohage Boulevards - golf carts will be available for those needing transportation from the parking lot to a seat in the worship area.

If you need a ride or directions to Harriet Island please contact Julie at the Church Office at 651-228-1456 x110 or visit www.unityunitarian.org.