

# Expression

Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka

JUNE 2008

## Sunday Service at 10 am

Care for children up to age 5 is available at all services.

The Religious Education program for children and youth will resume again on September 14.

### Words from Kent

On May 18, I experienced my first Annual Meeting with this congregation. Overall, it was a good experience. In the days and weeks leading up to the meeting, the Board, the Canvass chair, the Finance Ministry and I maintained an open, and at times intense conversation about the agenda and the budget. Though it was a struggle at times, and though we did not meet the financial goal set for this year, I feel we engaged in a very good process, and I look forward to renewed planning for next year.

When I reflected on the Annual Meeting after I left the church, two items bubbled to the top of awareness and remain with me still.

First, we need to remember that the annual operating budget must take priority over any capital campaign.

This has been a very full year for all of us, with incredible amounts of transition, new experiences, and learning about each other. One of the biggest stretches this congregation has ever made was in its enormously successful Capital Campaign last fall to buy land and construct a new church building. A Capital Campaign is very sexy, with defined and measurable outcomes, and an annual operating budget is not. I fully support and encourage the creation of a new church home, but we need to maintain and improve our existing church and infrastructure before we can build a new one.

Second, and more importantly, this congregation needs to not only create, but also embody, a powerful vision and sense of identity. This includes long-range program planning and financial planning. The Board and I have already begun conversations about how we may begin this next year.

In my mind, a church is not a social club. As I see it, a church exists (or has the potential to exist) as a community that transforms lives and transforms the world. If all we do with our annual budget is ask people to give money to cover bills and staff salaries, then giving will remain small and our vision narrow. But if we tell people – and if our telling is followed up by an embodied practice – that “if you join this congregation, we will transform your life,” then money will flow from the vision. People want to be part of something powerful and good.

A powerful vision and practice may not eliminate budget problems. In fact, a powerful vision will most likely entail continued calls for money as we continually evolve. But what a powerful vision does create is a spirit of generosity, a spirit that

says, “yes, we may have a deficit, but this is in service to something larger, something beyond ourselves. This deficit is in service to our vision and our action. This deficit is worth it because we are transforming lives.” Even more hopefully, when we are in service to a powerful vision, our generosity just may cause us to eliminate budget deficits altogether.

Unitarian Universalists tend to be social and political liberals, but financially we tend to be ultraconservative! If everyone in the congregation gave 5% of even their net income, then it would be a long time before we encounter budget problems.

In addition to our liberal social and political attitudes, when we live our lives in service to a greater vision, we begin to behave with more liberal and generous financial attitudes as well. When we live our lives in service to a greater vision, then we are truly living our capital campaign slogan to “move in faith.”

Moving in faith with you,

**Kent**

### June 8 Flower Celebration and Our Picnic Potluck

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a Unitarian Minister from Czechoslovakia created a flower ritual distinctly unique and separate from Christian rituals to celebrate the lives of the people of his congregation. A few years later, he brought this ritual to the United States, where it is now celebrated in many Unitarian Universalist congregations. On this Sunday morning, as part of the worship service, **we ask each person to bring a flower to share and give away.**

Then following the service join in on the fun at the annual **UUCM Picnic, June 8, at 11:15 am** A variety of cold sandwiches and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share! Clean-up help appreciated! See you there!



# News from the Director of

## Religious Education

Andrea Purdy Heier

952-473-0448

*When love is felt or fear is known,  
When holidays and holy days and such times come,  
When anniversaries arrive by calendar or consciousness,  
When seasons come, as seasons do, old and known, but  
somehow new,  
When lives are born or people die,  
When something sacred's sensed in soil or sky,  
Mark the time.  
Respond with thought or prayer or smile of grief.  
Let nothing living, life or leaf, slip between the fingers of  
the mind,  
For all of these are holy things we will not, cannot, find  
again.*

These are the words with which I opened the annual Religious Education Sunday service on May 18. And mark the time we did, with good reason, during the Rites of Passage (ROP) ceremony. We are all aware of how quickly children grow and change, and now, more than ever, it is easy to miss moments and milestones of meaning. A curse of our time is how we, influenced greatly by our culture, have allowed activities and events take priority over time for relationships, spiritual growth and value clarification. Whether this is the result of consumerism, self-gratification, or fear of missing out and being left behind, we as a faith community are, in turn, impacted. Our shared values are limited in their extent to be shared beyond us. Similarly, "success and achievement" in personal faith development, including spiritual growth and meaning, lose out to the impermanent and transient – those which simply precipitate the need for more.

We have just concluded the 2007-08 religious education program for children and youth. It is worthy that we mark the time. You are invited to read about the activities and accomplishments of the program in the Lifespan RE Ministry annual report. More importantly, please read about the Rites of Passage participants in the booklets with a bridge on the cover in the North Room. Seek them out and let them know their lives matter to you, whether that be in person, by mail or email or by Facebook! Acknowledge that this new phase of their lives will bring challenges as well as rewards to their spiritual journeys. Assure them that Unitarian Universalism and this faith community will always be here for them.

Allow me to present the 2008 Rites of Passage participants:

**Entering Kindergarten:** Genavieve Billiet, Cassia Cady, Louisa Knopp, Margot Maxwell, Raleigh Page, Sydney Putnam, Rowan Staggs, Ian Stine.

**Entering Jr. High program:** Rory Calabria, William Hoverman, Brent Jacobs, Laura Lindberg, Jack McGee,

Conor McGinnis, Audrey Parry, Megan Stock, Lillian Strehlow, Helaina VonBank, Vera White, Mari Wilson.  
**Entering Sr. High program:** Alayne Beneke, Laurel Brown, Mario Calabria, Reed Jacobs, Jordan McGowan, Jake Spolar.

**Bridging to Young Adulthood:** Howard Boyer, Julia Brown, Rachel Cordo, Michael Gower, Nell Heier, George Ostrom, Sam Spolar, Callie Stark, Catherine Wack.

I am privileged to have played a role in the lives of each of these individuals and sincerely hope that this milestone is not an ending to that. I wish time and space allowed me to share my own thoughts about each of them. Instead I will close with a family message that was mistakenly omitted from the Rites of Passage booklet for one of our "bridged" young adults, Rachel Cordo. It reflects the messages I hope we all would like to share with each other.

*Rachel,*

*You have always been mature beyond your age. It is a trait that seemed to be inherent. But that is why I know that you are ready to proceed to the next stage: college!*

*We (your family and friends in Minnesota) have been so fortunate to be a part of your straightforward style. Being forthright in your relationships is what we have come to expect from you and why you are so trusted and respected by your family, friends and teammates. This quality will be one of your best assets as you forge new friendships and encounter many new experiences at Wheaton College and beyond.*

*The strong connection that you have had to your UUCM friends and to the church over the years is completely admirable and evidence of your responsible character. Certainly, the experiences that you have had at UUCM and in the greater UU community will continue to influence the decisions and choices that you make in your young adult life. Rachel, you are wonderful!*

*Andrea*

### Upcoming Newsletter

#### Deadline: Friday, June 20 by Noon

All newsletter submissions should be sent to Newsletter Editor, Emilie Fitch at officeadmin@mtn.org.

Please include name and phone number for editor verification purposes. *Expression* is published once a month and will be in homes the last week of a month with news for the upcoming month. The deadline for submission of articles is the third Friday of the month.

Upcoming Deadlines are:  
July 18 & August 15

## Update from the Relocation Task Force

What will the new UUCM look like?

A preliminary sketch of what our architects are proposing for our new building are now posted on the bulletin board in the North Room and on the UUCM website [www.uucmtka.org](http://www.uucmtka.org). LOCUS architect, Wynne Yelland, began his May 10th presentation to the congregation by listing the philosophy underpinning the design concept. Based on information gleaned from interviews and forums with the congregation the following values were considered in the design process:

- Spirituality and meditation
- Intellectual humanism
- Social action and service
- Celebrate community and each other
- Worship, music and beauty
- Respect nature, embrace green design
- History, tradition, and progressive vision

All members and friends are urged to carefully review the presentation material which includes the timetable of the process underway, space allocation, floor plans and exterior facades. LOCUS needs to hear from us about what we like about the preliminary design concept and what we would like to see changed. While this is a preliminary sketch, once the design concept is shown to the neighbors as part of the process to get their support for our rezoning application, we will not be able to change it radically.

Please email Christy Dachelet at [czdachelet@comcast.net](mailto:czdachelet@comcast.net) with your feedback and suggestions.

### General Assembly 2008

This year, General Assembly will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from June 25-29. The theme this year is "Common Threads" that weave together the fabric of our Unitarian Universalist faith and community (more information on this can be found at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)).

General Assembly is held each year in June, and is the annual business meeting, leadership development, and social gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the United States. Each year, congregations send delegates to GA to decide on issues of conscience, social justice, and vision for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our minister, Kent Hemmen Saleska, will attend this year, and we hope to fill all our slots in the future for our congregational delegates.

Mark your calendars now: GA 2009 will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah; and in 2010, GA will be held right here in Minneapolis! This will be a great chance for this congregation to get involved on a national level without ever leaving the Twin City area!

## Board Column

### May Meeting Update

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Elliott.

The Board approved a special collection on June 1 with the funds going to Habitat for Humanity.

Membership report: One withdrawal was reported: Jan Lacy.

Policies & Procedures: Margot Barry and Bob Dachelet will have the updated Policies & Procedures Handbook in the Boards' hands so it can be approved at the June meeting.

The rest of the meeting was spent in preparation for the Annual Meeting on May 18. Jackie Smolen agreed to be the recording secretary for that meeting.

For more detailed information, the minutes for this meeting will be posted in the North Room, after they have been approved at the June Board meeting.

### RE CLEAN UP

Do you have an hour or two to help the RE team clean up the classrooms after an awesome year? We will be organizing and cleaning the religious education spaces on **Wednesday, June 11 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm**. All are welcome! Bring yourself and/or any cleaning supplies! See you then! Questions? Contact: Michelle Maxwell, LRE Facilitator at [mmaxw1016@msn.com](mailto:mmaxw1016@msn.com) or 763-550-2982.



### 2008-09 RE Volunteers Still Welcome

A wonderful way to contribute time and energy that is full of rewards and changes lives is by volunteering in some manner for the religious education program. There are lots of choices of which teaching is only one. Build bridges across generations as well as make new friends. Blue volunteer forms are in the North Room, or contact Andrea Heier.

### Interested in Registering for RE?

If you would like to register for the 2008-09 religious education program for children and youth, the sooner the better. Knowing what numbers to expect helps us plan classes that are of even sizes for the rooms, as the program transitions from 9 am to the 11 am service (see May's newsletter). Please contact Andrea Heier with any questions you may have about UUCM's RE program.

# ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

## Budget acted upon at Annual Meeting

UUCM's 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting took place on May 18, 2008. Board President Mike Elliott briefly talked about some of the year's highlights which included (but were not limited to):

- ✦ Kent Hemmen Saleska beginning as our new settled minister in August
  - ✦ A successful capital campaign with pledges totaling approximately \$1.2 million
  - ✦ A vote to approve the purchase of the 2030 Wayzata Blvd. E. property
  - ✦ Hiring Locus Architecture to begin the process of designing a new church facility
  - ✦ The formation of a Personnel Committee and the Committee on Ministry
  - ✦ The ordination and installation of Kent Hemmen Saleska
  - ✦ A successful auction which raised funds for UUCM and Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners
- The youth Sleepout for the homeless (which included Kent and Mike)

The official business of the annual meeting was to approve a budget for the 2008-09 church year (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009), vote on a bylaws change regarding terms of board members and elect new members and officers to the Board of Trustees. The meeting was well-attended and included a healthy discussion of the issues at hand.

The congregation voted to amend the bylaws to change the term length of the Board of Trustees from one or two years to three years, with the ultimate goal to have one-third of the board moving off at a time. It was noted that individuals sometimes have to resign before their term is up, thus it may not always be possible to elect three new members each year for three-year terms.

There was a lengthy and healthy discussion on the budget. Concerns were raised regarding how pledge defaults were listed in the proposed budget; the proposed \$5,206 deficit, staffing issues, the desire to pay our fair share to the Prairie Star District and Unitarian Universalist Association and pledges being lower than last year. Members also asked how UUCM was faring with the current budget. After considerable discussion, the congregation voted to approve an amended budget that moved default pledges from the expense side of the budget to the revenue side; bringing total revenues to \$224,672 and total expenses to \$229,878. 44 people voted in favor, 7 people voted against, and 9 abstained on the proposed budget.

The congregation then elected new members and officers to the Board of Trustees. Officers for the 2008-09 year are: Steve Sundby, president, Alison Albrecht (vice president) and Noel Martinson, treasurer. Steve and Alison are current board members and Noel will be joining the board. Other new members include: Julia Antonsen, Melinda Bennett, Kevin Johnson and Bill McKnight. Current board members Bob Dachelet and Jackie Smolen will continue on the board. Outgoing board members – Margot Barry, Mike Elliott, Karen Hoagland and Ward Montgomery – were thanked for their hard work.

*Submitted by Alison Albrecht*

## Board Members Finish Terms

Five members of the current Board are finishing their terms at the end of this month. That represents over half of the nine member Board and speaks to one of the reasons for the change made in the By-laws at our Annual Meeting to make all Board members terms three years and set them up on a staggered basis so only 1/3 of the Board changes year to year.

Those finishing their terms this year include **President Mike Elliott, Treasurer Chris Hermann, Margot Barry, Karen Hoagland and Ward Montgomery.** A heartfelt thanks is extended to all five for their gracious service on our Board of Trustees!



## Ushers, Flowers and Chalice Keepers needed for Sunday mornings

Would you like to help share hospitality or beauty on Sunday mornings? We need volunteers to provide ushering and floral/plant arrangements. Chalice Keepers, new and old, are needed for our services throughout the summer. Sign-up sheets for all three are in the North Room.



# News from the Ministries

Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka is organized into seven work areas. The work areas, or ministries, are led by a **Facilitator** and together the Facilitators make up the **Church Council**. The Church Council meets on the first Thursday of each month along with staff and a representative of the Executive Council of the Board of Trustees.

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka Facilitators for 2007–2008

**Communications-** Claire Cunningham, 763-546-0479, [clairec529@msn.com](mailto:clairec529@msn.com) & Lisa Stevens, 952-473-4770, [stevensmc@aol.com](mailto:stevensmc@aol.com)  
Mission: To encourage communications that reflect UUCM's values and covenant

**Community- (Temporarily) Alison Albrecht**, 952-938-9246, [alisonalbrecht@comcast.net](mailto:alisonalbrecht@comcast.net)  
Mission: To sustain a thriving, caring community that welcomes & embraces human diversity

**Facilities & Operations-** Lee Kaster, 952-935-3873, [leekaster@comcast.net](mailto:leekaster@comcast.net)  
Mission: To enhance our church environment

**Finance-Fred Hulting**, 763-553-9514, [fhulting@comcast.net](mailto:fhulting@comcast.net)  
Mission: To ensure financial support of the church

**Social Action-John Crosson**, 763-473-0945, [crossonjohn@aol.com](mailto:crossonjohn@aol.com)  
Mission: To develop and support programs identified by Social Action and the congregation, which provide opportunities to live our UUA principles

**Lifespan Religious Education- Michelle Maxwell**, 763-550-2982, [mmaxw1016@msn.com](mailto:mmaxw1016@msn.com)  
Mission: To help each individual develop a personal religious identity and a sense of belonging to our UUCM community through worship, religious growth and learning, social action and fellowship

**Worship Arts Ministry - Weld Ransom**, 952-828-5593, [weldr@comcast.net](mailto:weldr@comcast.net)  
Mission: To encourage individuals to act in accordance with their beliefs & values; to nurture our quest for knowledge, truth & spiritual growth at every stage of life

## Community Ministry

### About Our Members

\*\*\*\*\*

There is a new addition to the **McGowan** family! **Melissa, Bryan**, and son **Jordan**, welcomed **Harrison Robert McGowan** on Thursday, April 24. Congratulations to all!

**Steve Sundby's** father, **Elmer Sundby**, was hit by a car on Friday, April 25 in Eau Claire, WI. His hip was fractured, and he had surgery that Sunday. His is now in a rehab center for six weeks, but is in good spirits.

**Susanna Presseller** had surgery on May 9th for an injured rotator cuff. She is now at home recuperating.

**Karen Hoagland** was in Alaska the 3rd week in May to see her nephew, Thomas Snyder, graduate from high school on May 13. Thomas is a survivor of Hodgkins Lymphoma and has been in remission for 21 months.

Congratulations to **Melinda France** and **Naji AlJabry** who were married at UUCM on May 17.

**Women Who Read**  
Contact **Christy Dachelet** for  
information at **952-933-2787**

The **Women Who Read Group** always welcomes new members. Join them Monday, June 9 as they discuss *Angelica* by Arthur Phillips at Arlene Monk's home. For directions call Arlene at 952-938-3847.

## 2008 UUCM Women's Retreat "Lighten Up!"

September 19-20, Koinonia Retreat Center

The recession ... financial woes... political debates... hectic schedules... lack of energy... are the upheavals of life getting you down? Per Maya Angelou, "*Life loves the liver of it.*" So let's *lighten up* and *live it up* at the annual Women's Retreat.

Gather with us at this warm and woodsy retreat 80 miles west of the church starting before dinner Friday evening and ending Saturday after dinner. We will worship together, enjoy outdoor activities, relax, visit with old and new friends, and become inspired by artist Jeanne Stortz.

**Look for registration flyers in the North Room soon!!**

Questions? Ask a member of the retreat committee:  
Lori Arnold: 952-935-5628 [loriwarnold@yahoo.com](mailto:loriwarnold@yahoo.com)

Barb Corbusier: 952-938-8291 [barbaracorbusier@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaracorbusier@yahoo.com)

Annie Hubbard: 952-472-4219 [ahubbard@bitstream.net](mailto:ahubbard@bitstream.net)

Kathy Piotter: 952-473-0705 [kjeypp@msn.com](mailto:kjeypp@msn.com)

*We hope you will join us!*



## News from the Ministries (continued)

### **Social Action    John Crosson Habitat for Humanity Project Set**

We will be participating with other local UU churches the week of June 16 to 20 on a Habitat project in Brooklyn Park. This is a new house that is being built. There are already enough volunteers signed up to do the work, but if anyone would like to participate financially, there will be a special collection for Habitat at the June 1 service.

### **Worship Arts Ministry    Weld Ransom Worship Associates Training**

Do you want to learn more about the theory behind the practice of Sunday morning worship? Are you interested in helping to create or lead worship? Are you willing to commit to one year of being a Worship Associate?

A Worship Associate is someone who, as part of the Worship Arts Ministry, works with the minister to create and conduct worship services. This training – the first in a planned ongoing series for this group – will begin to explore ritual, worship themes, public speaking, prayer and spiritual practice, and the use of music. This training will be held on **Saturday morning, June 14, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**. For more information, or to sign up to be a Worship Associate, contact our minister, Kent Hemmen Saleska, at [revkent@mninter.net](mailto:revkent@mninter.net), or at the church, at 952-473-5900.

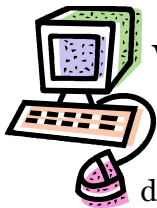
### **Looking for an opportunity to jump in and volunteer?**

A big thank you to **Jody Watts** and **Mary Opheim** for serving, respectively, as the Community Ministry facilitator and Membership Committee chair. Jody and Mary are moving onto other activities, thus we are in need of a facilitator for the Community Ministry and a chairperson for the Membership Committee. This is a great way to help the church and get to know others. If you have any questions and/or are interested, please contact Alison Albrecht, Board Liaison to the Community Ministry, at 952-938-9246 or [alison-albrecht@comcast.net](mailto:alison-albrecht@comcast.net).

## THIS AND THAT ...

### **Church Basement Lady Wanted to Job Share**

Our church kitchen can use an hour or two a week to help keep it tidy after Sunday's service or weekly meetings: emptying the dishwasher and re-load it, launder the linens, check refrigerator contents etc. I have done this on an irregular basis usually Mondays around noon. I plan to be away often this summer, so if there is someone who's interested, call me to talk about a very loose schedule. I'd like to keep the kitchen in decent shape for our staff during the week. Please contact Mary Opheim 952-472-4610



**Wanted:** Do you have a slightly used PC in good working order that you would like to donate? UUCM needs one or two PCs. Please call Kevin Johnson (HM 952-935-2249) if you would like to donate a PC. (Windows XP Pro preferred)

### **Do you have computer networking experience?**

Are you looking for a way to use your talent to help UUCM? We are in need of a network support person to manage the Windows Server 2003 network. Call Kevin Johnson for details (HM 952-935-2249). If you have little networking experience but enjoy computers and want to learn, I can teach you the basics of network administration.



### **ESCAPE TO VERMONT September 26 – 28, 2008**

Fourteenth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 1, \$250 (single) and \$450 (double). After August 1, \$300 (single) and \$500 (double). For more information contact [uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com) or (802) 353-7969.

[www.rutlanduu.org](http://www.rutlanduu.org)

### **Summer Office Hours June 16–August 29**

The church office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 2:00. Staff will be in the building at other times and available by appointment too. Call ahead to check if you need access to the building at other times. Phone number is 952-473-5900.

# THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND ...

## Camp StarTrail

As you may have heard, plans are being made to start a new, week-long, multigenerational UU camp in August of 2009. The planning group includes people from several congregations in Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. We will be renting a camp in the lovely Platte River Valley between Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. Features include hiking, canoeing, sitting on the porch to read or chat, swimming, celebration services in the mornings and vespers in the evening, excursions to area attractions such as the Omaha Zoo or the Strategic Air Command museum, and some of the best food we've ever tasted at any camp we've ever been to.

We're looking for people who would like to help us launch this new effort. We'll be meeting at the camp this summer, August 8 – 10, 2008, to sample the camp's amenities, get a feel for what it's like in late summer, and continue the planning process. We need people who have ideas and energy in areas such as music and the arts, programming for chil-

dren and youth, finance, promotion, and more. We are eager to hear your ideas. We hope you, or someone from your congregation, will join us!

Information and registration forms are available here: <http://www.psduua.org/Camps/CampStarTrail> If you have questions, please contact Nancy Heege, Prairie Star District Executive at [nheege@psduua.org](mailto:nheege@psduua.org) or Rev. Phillip Lund, Lifespan Program Director at [plund@psduua.org](mailto:plund@psduua.org)

*Submitted by Nancy Heege, Prairie Star District Executive  
122 W Franklin Avenue #303 Minneapolis, MN 55404  
612-230-3273*

***The services of Prairie Star District are funded by the dues that congregations pay to the UUA and the District and by contributions made by individual Friends of Prairie Star District.***



## **Become a member of UUSC. Your support is essential to our human-rights work.**

Dear UU Friend,

As you know, UUSC and the Unitarian Universalist Association have launched a humanitarian relief fund to help survivors of the cyclone that struck Myanmar (formerly Burma) on May 3.

World news reports are chronicling the tension between the international aid community, which wants to roll out a massive disaster response, and the Myanmar government, which wants to control all aid delivery. Given that situation, many concerned people are asking whether it makes sense to contribute to the relief effort.

This is a reasonable question but the focus on the international aid response to the disaster leads to an incomplete understanding of the situation. Since the storm struck, organizations with offices on the ground in Myanmar have, in fact, been leading critical – and effective – recovery work behind the scenes of the international aid debate. The international NGOs in the country and the few national NGOs that have capacity to respond to the cyclone are working around the clock. Those that have national staff and projects in the delta region have mobilized their people and have brought in staff from other regions.

**Make a donation for cyclone relief in Myanmar by visiting <http://www.uusc.org/info/support.html>.**

## **UUSC's Response to the Cyclone**

Two UUSC program staff persons were in Myanmar just before the cyclone on program development work and are now in communication with NGO contacts there to support these vital relief efforts. Because of the relationships formed in Myanmar and our existing partner relationships in southeast Asia, UUSC is now able to work with organizations on the ground delivering relief directly to affected groups.

According to our contacts on the ground, it is possible to purchase supplies in country, particularly in Mandalay, the second largest city in Myanmar that was not affected by the cyclone. They report that wholesalers and factories are selling supplies as close to cost as possible and cooperating fully. Using pickup trucks, boats, and dugout canoes, they are moving supplies farther and farther out into affected areas, extending the network of aid deeper into the delta. The NGOs are cooperating closely with monks and nuns who are leading local relief efforts in the villages. Many monasteries, nunneries, and temples have opened their doors as shelters and monks have helped coordinate communities' work in affected villages. Buddhist relief organizations in other countries have successfully gotten emergency funding to the Sangha in Myanmar, which is playing a central role in the relief effort. To read more on UUSC's response please visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article051408.html>.



**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Minnetonka**

**605 Rice Street  
Wayzata, MN 55391**

Artwork by Marc Johnson, 1995

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Our Mission Statement**

**We are an open and caring religious community on a quest to live with purpose and meaning while inspiring all people to act ethically and with social conscience for the betterment of the world.**

**Adopted 2007**

**Newsletter: Working to be  
Green**

In order to protect our environment and save our natural resources, we encourage all who can, to receive this newsletter via email. If you want to be added to our email mailing list, please contact the church at [officeadmin@mtn.org](mailto:officeadmin@mtn.org).

Also, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter electronically or in paper form, please contact [officeadmin@mtn.org](mailto:officeadmin@mtn.org) or 952-473-5900, to remove your name from the newsletter list.



**Staff**

The Reverend Kent Hemmen Saleska, Minister  
Andrea Purdy Heier, Director of Religious Education  
April Kaisen, Youth Advisor  
Greg Membrez, Music Director  
Mark Brekke, Choir Director  
Emilie Fitch, Office Administrator  
Rita Jelinek, Bookkeeper

**Board of Trustees**

Mike Elliott, President; Steve Sundby, Vice President;  
Chris Hermann, Treasurer; Alison Albrecht,  
Margot Barry, Bob Dachelet, Karen Hoagland,  
Ward Montgomery, Jackie Smolen  
Ex-Officio: Christy Dachelet, Relocation Task Force Chair

**How to reach us:**

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*Expression*, a publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka, is published once a month. The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate to members and friends about the UUCM ministry, business and activities.