

Expression

Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka

June 2009

Sunday Service at 10:00 am through September 6
Care for children up to age 5 is available at all services.

Words from Kent

Wow, what a wonderful two months of parental leave! I offer a big THANK YOU to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka for working with me to make this happen, and for supporting my family and me during our time adjusting to a new family dynamic after the birth of our daughter, Mirek Joy Hemmen Saleska, on March 22. I have much to be thankful for:

First off, I want to thank the Board for supporting my proposal to use all my vacation and study leave at once in order to make my parental leave possible, and working with me ahead of time to make sure many contingencies and arrangements were in place.

Second, I give a big thanks to Weld Ransom and Jon Bidler, and the rest of the people on the Worship Arts Ministry, for coordinating and providing what I heard from many people were a wonderful series of eight Sunday worship services during my absence.

Third, I extend a deep thank you to the Spiritual Care Associates (Stephanie McCullough-Cain, Judy Kaster, Stacy Doepner-Hove, Jason Backes, Sara Bidler and Debbie Elliott) who filled in during my Parental Leave to lead and provide the "Life Passages" portion of each Sunday worship service. I know it was a time of spiritual growth as they held the lives of all the people in our congregation in tender, sacred care each Sunday.

Finally, I offer my thanks to Stephanie McCullough-Cain and Debbie Elliott for scheduling people to bring meals to our family three times a week for six weeks after Mirek was born! Heidi and I are extremely grateful and filled with humility with this huge show of support and wonderful, delicious food from so many people in the congregation.

This last point moved me to reflect more on the relationships within the congregation, my relationship each of you. Each week, on Monday, Wednes-

day and Friday, as one person or family after another brought us meals, I was struck by the relaxed nature of each visit. I really enjoyed having a few moments with each person or family – without having an agenda. It was refreshing for me, and revealing.

I realized that most of my interactions with people at UUCM occur in a crowded room after Sunday morning services, or in large Board meetings, or in large Ministry meetings, or in large social gatherings like the Christmas concert or Auction. With the exception of my spiritual care/pastoral care visits, virtually all of my interactions with people at UUCM take place in large groups. So I had an inspiration: I want to visit each member of the congregation.

I contacted Deanna Johnson, the Facilitator of the Community Ministry, and Stephanie McCullough-Cain and Judy Kaster from the Caring Committee, and they agreed to work with me to help arrange visits with each member, or member family, in the congregation. By visiting one or two people each week (even for 15 minutes or half an hour), in this congregation of 200 members, I expect this to take about two years.

This is a big undertaking, and ultimately it may be an unrealistic goal if, or as, we grow. But after the attention that was paid to my family and me after the birth of our daughter, I recognize from personal experience – and as one of the roles of the church community – the need for creating and sustaining connections one to another. I look forward to seeing you.

In peace,

Kent

News from the Director of Religious Education

Andrea Purdy Heier

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dre@mtn.org

Summer is soon upon us with its own schedule of activities. Although UUCM worship services continue through the summer at 10am, summer plans impact regular attendance for many, despite our value for the faith and this church. Still there are additional ways you can continue to support the religious growth and learning of the whole family (however you define that term!) – many of them right at your fingertips!

This is a great time, for example, for establishing a spiritual practice. The family could light the chalice daily to words of special meaning. Sharing something individuals are grateful for or wish for another are other possibilities.

If you don't have a chalice, you can make one using an inverted tea or coffee cup and placing the saucer on top. Add a tealite candle (or a battery operated tealite) and voila! You can make a chalice in a similar manner out of a plant pot and saucer, glued together and painted or decorated. It is fun to experiment with the variety of cups and saucers, kinds of plant pots, and other materials. Some of my favorite chalices came from garage sales or the Good Will or were hand decorated.

If you are looking for chalice lighting words or other readings for simple reflection, you will find a wealth of them at the Unitarian Universalist Association's Worship Web (www.uua.org/spirituallife). In fact while you are there you might want to check out today's reading or sermon and consider how it informs your search for truth and meaning, through journaling and discussion with others. Let us know your insights.

For children and youth there are a number of free UU resources on line at the Church of the Larger Fellowship website. Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) was founded to serve the needs of isolated UUs with congregational benefits and services. At <http://clf.uua.org/re> you can link children to

- Between Sundays webpage with helpful answers to children's religious questions,

- KidTalk, a webpage updated monthly with seasonal stories, fun information, quick facts, and the "[Ask CLiF](#)" feature where children can post questions,
- uu& me, a fun and colorful magazine (also included for members in the UUA's World print magazine) that helps kids think about deep questions of what really matters,
- UU ABCs alphabet coloring book, and two posters: UUA "Principles" and "UUism from A to Z".

Another resource for families is the Family Matters Task Force (FMTF) booklet series, ***Taking It Home: Families and Faith***. The six booklets in the series include *Let's Talk About Respect, ...Time/Money Balance, ...Marriage and Committed Relationships, ...Divorce and Broken Relationships, ...Families and Loss, and ...Interfaith Families*. Every booklet includes sections defining the theme, relating the theme to the wellsprings of our UU faith, identifying the theme across the lifespan, describing activities for families to try at home or with other families, listing resources for families to pursue. These booklets are available on CD in the UUCM RE library, and are published on the UUA Web site, www.uua.org/families.

The summer schedule may afford you the time and flexibility to take part in more social service options, sharing what the relationship taking action has to your values. And of course, what would summer be without some time in nature to reflect on, draw from and give back to the interdependent web of existence.

Enjoy your UU family times – and keep in touch!

Andrea

Did You Miss RE Sunday's Rites of Passage?

Eligible participant may pick up copies of the Rites of Passage booklet and your gift from the RE program in the North Room through the month of June.

Relocation Task Force Update

In June UUCM's Goodwill Ambassadors will be building relationships in the Holdridge neighborhood. These volunteers; Mary Cotton Levin, Jackie Smolen, Stephanie Cain, Margaret Falk, Susanna Presseller and Mary Stransky will meet with residents in their homes. These volunteers will not be trying to "sell" our project but rather getting to know more about the community and its concerns. It is not too late if you wish to be trained to be one of these volunteer ambassadors. Contact Christy Dachelet if you are interested.

Our attorneys are drafting a text amendment to the Wayzata zoning code that would allow churches to locate in R1 Residential areas. There is some indication that the resistance to UUCM is more a resistance to changing the zoning of the property to Institutional than to having a church as a neighbor. Changing the zoning code to allow churches in Residential zones seems a promising strategy to pursue. Wayzata zoning code is atypical in not allowing churches in residential areas. All surrounding communities zone churches Residential with a Conditional Use Permit. The proposed text amendments will be presented to the City Council for consideration.

On May 5th the congregation of the Hopkins United Methodist Church located at 12th Ave. and Highway 7 voted to disband. The property is owned by the Methodist Annual Conference. In the next 3 to 6 months a committee of Bishops and lay people will decide what will be done with the building. If their decision is to sell the building, UUCM will evaluate that site and property as an option.

Submitted by Christy Dachelet, Chair
czdachelet@comcast.net

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting was held on May 17 and was led by **Steve Sundby**, President of the Congregation. Steve welcomed back **Rev. Kent Hemmen Saleska** from his two month parental leave and Kent led the congregation in prayer.

Steve highlighted the Board of Trustees' accomplishments for the last year. They included the first ever retreat jointly attended by our Committee on Ministry, Board of Trustees, Church Council (Ministry Facilitators) and our Minister. Much was accomplished as the individuals involved learned more about others' roles and their own in the organization of our church. Out of that retreat came a Covenant of Right Relations that the congregation will have their chance to study and to adopt this fall. We had a record number of members, six, attend the Prairie Star District Annual Meeting in April. At the Board retreat last July, the Board agreed to work on three goals and so broke into task forces: Governance, Evangelism and Long-range Financial. The Governance Task Force which included **Kevin Johnson**, **Jackie Smolen** and **Bob Dachelet** researched and educated the Board of Policy Governance, is currently drafting Policy Governance for UUCM and their hope is to have the Board and congregation adopt Policy Governance in 2010. The Evangelism Task Force, including **Alison Albrecht**, **Julia Antonsen** and **Melinda Bennett** have taken a congregational survey on how to inspire and promote evangelism and led the Ministries in discussing ways to increase outreach/evangelism. The Long Range Financial Task Force including **Bill McKnight** and **Noel Martinson** realized that until we know the when and how much of a move to a new location a plan would be ill advised. They did however, develop a more flexible model for church finances and began preliminary planning for an endowment fund.

Continued on page 11

From the Board President

Steve Sundby

sundby@macalester.edu

Random thoughts, ruminations -and a “thank you”

I have many topics I contemplated writing about, but my time for this column has run out. In closing, I'd like to share a few thoughts and views that have brought some guidance and meaning to my life.

To ponder:

We are an open & 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 our world.

Our family recently attended my god son's first Catholic communion. I explained some beliefs and events to Alana (ex: the priest blessing medallions and rosary beads was a practice left over from raising money in earlier centuries to buy your way to heaven).

I was aware of how many “disconnects” there were for me in the service and how it wasn't for me, but there were 70 3rd graders being confirmed!! So this brand of religion certainly connects with a lot of people.

I wonder if I am really open and welcoming to someone who gets spiritual reward from this belief system. The many people who were there are good, they are spiritual, and they are liberal (St. Joan of Arc). Do I downplay, perhaps even belittle their beliefs in things that don't make sense to me? I could use help in practicing tolerance. I ask you to ponder as well: are we at UUCM as “all welcoming” as we think?

My favorite pieces of advice (to myself):

1) I have 2 sayings by my bed: “Treasure each day” and “Be with others”.

So what do you value the most to help make each day memorable? To test what is important, try imagining your life without various things. If possessions might be your treasure, imagine a storm washing them away. If family or friends are perhaps most valued, suppose you worked so hard your family leaves and you literally have no friends. Examine what is valuable, what you are passionate about...and do it!

“Be with others” refers to something I learned 14

years ago at some self-introspection courses, and it means to immerse yourself in whomever you are with at any moment in time. Focus as completely as you can on what that person is feeling, doing, and saying at that moment. It's harder to do than you might think, but if you're successful, you begin understanding who that person is at a deeper level, because that person is revealing part of who they are. Really connecting with another person brings meaning to my life, and hopefully to theirs, too. It helps me understand our common bond as human beings.

2) The only thing we own are our actions.

-Buddha

3) Call me a fatalist, but I seem to always come back to the statement that “everything happens for a reason.”

Thank you, members and friends of UUCM, for allowing me to be your President this past year. I have learned a lot about this church and myself, and connected at a deeper level with a number of people as a result of this rewarding adventure. I look at this spiritual home of ours, and I like what I see and am truly excited about our future.

And now, the page turns. See you around,

Steve

Board Column—May Meeting Highlights

The Board met at its regular meeting time on May 14 and the meeting was chaired by President Steve Sundby. The Board acknowledged the resignation and change to “Friend” status of Doug Stark.

Noel Martinson reported two changes to the proposed 2009-10 budget as approved at the last meeting. Upon consultation with WAM Facilitator, the WAM budget will be set at \$2,850 from \$1,000 and the Community budget will be equally split between Community & Membership. Motion made & carried.

COM appointments of Karen Hulting & Joanne Meehl were made.

The Board spent a great deal of time planning for the Annual Meeting presentation next Sunday.

Submitted by Emilie Fitch

News from the Ministries

Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka Facilitators for 2009—2010

Communications— OPEN

Community— Deanna Johnson, 952.935.2249, deannaleejohnson@comcast.net

Facilities & Operations— OPEN

Finance—OPEN

Social Action—John Crosson, 763.473.0945, crossonjohnt@aol.com

Lifespan Religious Education— OPEN

Membership—Susanna Presseller, 952.544.2777, kfp2777@yahoo.com

Worship Arts Ministry - Jon Bidler, 952.828.5593, weldr@comcast.net

UUCM is organized into eight work areas as listed above. 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.

Community Ministry

About Our Members

Our thoughts are with **Jackie Smolen** and her husband **Dick Brown**. Dick's father, Larry Brown, died April 22. Larry was 96 years old. During Larry's career, he was a chemistry teacher and principal in the Thief River Falls School District. And warm wishes go out to Jackie and Dick's daughter, **Leah Brown**, who is graduating from the Art Institute in Chicago with a BA in Fine Arts with a writing emphasis.

Stacy Doepner-Hove's mother, Judy Grant, is back at home and in good spirits after being hospitalized and in rehab for several weeks due to complications of lung cancer. Judy is now ready to continue with chemotherapy. Our thoughts are with Stacy, her husband **Marc**, and Stacy's brother Mark, who have been the primary caregivers these past weeks.

Ellen Silva and her husband **Wilson Gibbins** proudly announce the recent marriage of their daughter, **Karen Gibbins**, to Brandon Maughan on May 9. Both Karen and Brandon will return to Brown University in Rhode Island to do their residencies, Karen in Ob-Gyn and Brandon in ER. Congratulations!

Steve Sundby's father, Elmer Sundby, is now back at home and fully recovered from pneumonia.

Jody Watts father, Art Brown, is now out of hospice. Congratulations to **Sara Bidler** on passing her state boards. Sara is now a licensed marriage and family therapist! Also **Sara** and **Jon** have found out they are going to have boy! Wonderful news!

Lee Cerier, graduating senior at Wayzata High School and son of **Alison & Ed**, was awarded a scholarship by the Rotary Club of Wayzata, for demonstrating academic achievement, community involvement, leadership skills, and character.

Changes Coming in the Caring Ministry!

Stephanie McCullough-Cain is pleased to an-

nounce that beginning in September, **Debbie Elliott** will be stepping in to the co-chair position of the Caring Ministry. Debbie will be a wonderful addition to the caring team along with **Judy Kaster** who will continue as co-chair. Stephanie will continue serving with the Spiritual Care Associates. Many sincere thanks to Stephanie for all of her hard work and service to this community.

Women Who Read, a book group that meets monthly in members' homes and discusses a mix of fiction, non-fiction and classics and always welcomes new members. Join them Monday, June 8 at 7 pm as they discuss *The Ginseng Hunter* by J. Talarigo at the home of Arlene Monk
Contact Christy Dachelet for information at 952.933.2787

Social Justice Ministry

Habitat for Humanity Work Week will be the week of June 22 in Ramsey, Minnesota. Sign-up sheets, along with maps of the location, will be available on Sunday mornings. Questions? Contact John Crosson, information above.

Membership Ministry is accepting new members of the Membership Ministry and Service Greeters. There is training available for the Greeters and information about the Membership Ministry. We meet once a month and have the best blueberry pie ever as a treat. (every month!)

For Service greeters please call or email Margaret Falk-952-476-1437 email margaret_falk@yahoo.com For info on the Membership Ministry call or email Susanna Presseller- 952-544-2777 or kfp2777@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Report

Noel Martinson martinsonnoel@yahoo.com

It's Up to You

Here's where things stand as of the end of April. Our total budget was \$238,162. Our fiscal year is 83% complete.

	Current	% of Budgeted	June 30 Pro- jected	Difference from Budgeted
Total Income	\$202,116	85%	\$226,000	(\$12,162)
Pledge In- come	\$171,296	80%	\$193,296	(\$20,556)
Total Expenses	\$181,279	76%	\$215,279	\$22,883
Difference	\$20,837		\$10,721	

After being ahead most of the year on pledges we first fell behind in March and again a few percentage points further in April. The June 30 projections assume those trends continue. Right now it still looks like we will end the year on a positive note largely due to the tight management of expenses by all of the ministries.

However, some expenses have been deferred and may not wait much longer. Everyone is aware our fair share dues have not been paid this year. Some of you may be aware that our roof is leaking and needs some attention soon. Others may have noticed that our sound system is beginning to falter and could benefit from an upgrade.

We could deal with many if not all of these issues if we can make a solid push to get our pledges up to date. Please do what you can to get your pledge up to date in the next few weeks.

This will be my last report as your Treasurer. I want to especially thank our bookkeeper, **Rita Jelinek**, for all that she does to keep our financial house in good order. She is invaluable and we are lucky to have such a conscientious, capable and reliable person on our staff.

I would also like to acknowledge the many past Treasurers who have clearly worked hard and diligently to keep improving our financial accounting system. It is humbling to see what has been accomplished on a purely volunteer basis. Much of it is invisible to the congregation so you will have to take my word for it. Or perhaps try out for treasurer yourself?

Respectfully submitted,
Noel Martinson
UUCM Treasurer

Upcoming Newsletter Deadline Friday, June 19 by Noon

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

Please include name and phone for editor verification purposes. Expression is published once a month 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 17 & August 21.

ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

Jodi Holden, Coordinator
jodiholden@yahoo.com

Face2Face Job Networking Group

Face2Face is a bimonthly group run for the purpose of helping professionals get a new job more quickly. **Joanne Meehl**, joanne@thejobsearchqueen.com, a trained career consultant facilitates the meetings. **The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 9:00-Noon.**

Connecting Caregivers: UUCM Caregiver Support Group

The **fourth Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 7:30 pm**, caregivers in the UUCM community are invited to join in community with other caregivers. The Caregiver Support Group will give you the opportunity to share your journey with peers as well as receive emotional and spiritual support and answers to your care giving questions. No fee.

FACILITATORS: Sara Bidler and Stacy Doepner-Hove Please call Sara at 763-458-2654 or Stacy at 612-624-5866.



UUCM presents: the **Annual Women's Retreat!**

Theme: "Revive, Restore, Renew"

Friday-Saturday, October 9-10, 2009

Location: Courage Camp, near Maple Lake, MN

For more information, please contact any of the Women's Retreat Committee Members:

Jody Watts (jkwatts@msn.com)

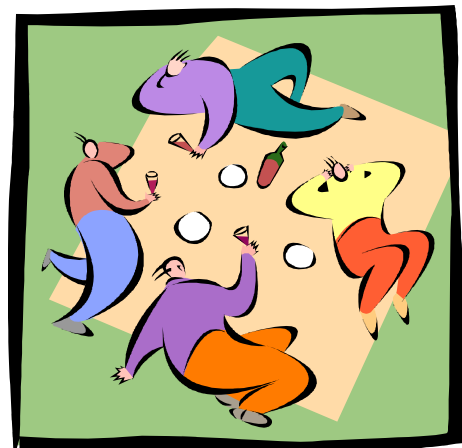
Jessie Billiet (jessbilliet@hotmail.com)

Shannon Riley (skathleenriley@yahoo.com)

Lisa Powell (ervet1@gmail.com)

Annual Summer Picnic

Mark your calendars for UUCM's **Annual Summer Picnic! June 21 after the service.** In honor of all UUCM fathers, sandwiches and lemonade will be provided. Feel free to contribute a side dish or dessert. Questions or offers to help with set up or clean up can be directed to Deanna Johnson at deannaleejohnson@comcast.net.



This and That ...



Taste Test for UUCM

You can sign up to taste test with Food Perspectives and help out the RE program! Participation lets you share your opinion and help shape the food that you buy every day, while getting paid and profiting UUCM's RE program!

They are looking for people who:

- Follow a regular diet
- Follow a gluten-free diet
- Are vegetarian
- Have Diabetes

Anyone ages 18–65 who does not work for a marketing, market research or food company, may sign up to participate. Sign up forms are posted in the RE hallway on the lower level.

Venerable Women

Friday June 5, 2009, at noon

**At the home of Irma Kelley
2320 Fox Street, Orono**

Hostesses: Irma Kelley

763-473-6554 brucekelley@msn.com

Marie Kidder 763-898-3018

kidder1@earthlink.net

Cost \$5; Please RSVP to Marie

We have two exciting activities highlighting Irma's talents at the next meeting of the Venerables. To celebrate summer, Irma is sharing her wonderful hostas with each person coming. **When you RSVP, please confirm that you would like one of these beauties.**

Irma weaves beautiful rag rugs. She is sharing this talent with us and Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners (IOCP), her favorite charity (<http://www.iocp.org/>). She will be displaying her latest collection of rugs for us to purchase.

All proceeds will be a donation to IOCP. In recognition of her generosity in doing this, a representative from IOCP will be joining us for lunch.

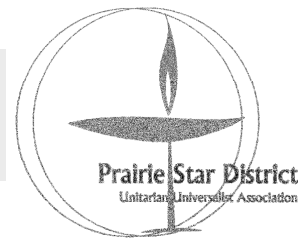
In a Nutshell

Are you looking for a way to describe you UU religion to a friend? Do you struggle, when asked about your church, to put into words the thoughts you have of UUism? The following article is reprinted from *UU World* and published here at the request of Pat Kridler who has had requests from members and friends of UUCM for it.

Unitarian Universalism is rooted in two religious heritages. Both are grounded on thousands of years of Jewish and Christian teachings, traditions and experiences. The Unitarian heritage has affirmed that we need not think alike to love alike and that God is one. The Universalist heritage has preached not hell but hope and courage, and the kindness and love of God. Contemporary Unitarian Universalists have reaped the benefits of a legacy of prophetic words and deeds.

Unitarian Universalism is not contained in any single book or creed. Its religious authority lies in the individual, nurtured and tested in the congregation and the wider world. As an evolving religion, it draws from the teachings, practices, and wisdom of the world's religions. Humanism, earth-centered spiritual traditions, and Eastern religions have served as vital sources. Unitarian Universalism has been influenced by mysticism, theism, skepticism, naturalism and process thought as well as feminist and liberation theologies. It is informed by direct experiences of mystery and wonder, beauty and joy. It is enriched by the creative power of the arts, the guidance of reason, and the lessons of sciences.

Grateful for the traditions that have strengthened our own, we seek to engage cultural and religious practices in ways that call us into right relationship with all.



Twin Cities Pride—Sunday June 28

UUs from across Minnesota are urged to join together as we march down Hennepin Avenue to Loring Park, in the Twin Cities Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28. MUUSJA's UUs Out 4 Marriage is coordinating with White Bear UU so that we may all proudly proclaim our UU message of love and hope and for equality in Minnesota. We are calling for drummers and other joyful noisemakers to join our parade slot. Look for the White Bear UU parade slot info at www.tcpride.org, parade slot # will be announced June 14.

UUO4M is hosting a day of art to prepare a colorful and engaging presence in the parade. Artists Elizabeth Giffin and Mary Jo Nikolai from Unity Church Unitarian will lead a program including batikting colorful ribbons and banners. **Art project day is Saturday morning, June 20, 9am – noon, at Unity Church Unitarian, 732 Holly Ave, St. Paul.** Check www.muusja.org/uuo4m for more info and materials you may want to bring. Also visit the same page for info on other Pride events this summer across Minnesota!

UUO4M also meets June 1st, and the first Monday of each month (except July), at 7pm at Unity Unitarian in St. Paul.

FFI Ralph: 612-998-6624 or ralph@muusja.org.

Compost? Who sings about *compost*? One Voice Mixed Chorus, that's who! One Voice is proud to close out its season with the environmentally-themed concert, **Lavender Green: Thinking Globally, Singing Locally**. Throughout the program, the chorus blends humor and thoughtfulness to celebrate nature, honor the work of GLBT environmentalists and explore ways we all can live a little greener. As part of its commitment to "singing locally," One Voice highlights a number of recent works by St. Paul-based composers, and in a special treat, children's choirs from Shir Tikvah, Unity Church–Unitarian and Mayflower UCC join One Voice onstage. Interactive lobby displays by Eureka Recycling add to the fun! The concerts are on **June 13, 2009, at 7:30 pm and June 14, 2009, at 3:30 pm at the History Theatre in downtown St. Paul.** Ticket prices for the concert range from \$18 to \$25, or \$10 for students and seniors; tickets are available at www.ovmc.org or by calling 651-298-1954. Special prizes for anyone biking, busing or walking to the concert!

Write and Share your Coming Out Story

Unity Church-Unitarian invites you to a Writing Workshop sponsored by Unity's Interweave Ministry Team and UU's Out for Marriage and facilitated by Unity Assistant Literary Minister Karen Hering. The telling of your story, first for your own eyes on the empty page, can help you find your voice for other times when you wish to share out loud.

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

6:00 to 9:00 pm

(6:00 check-in & snacks)

\$10—\$20 sliding fee

To sign-up please contact Barbara Hubbard at 651.228.1456 x116 or barbarah@unityunitarian.org. Registration deadline is Friday, July 24.

Worship Schedule for June

June 7: *Religious Journey* Pat Kridler
Music: Three Choirs led by Mark Brekke
Amazing Grace by Stephen Hatfield —Women's Choir
The Pasture by Randall Thompson —Men's Choir
That Lonesome Road by James Taylor —Massed Choir
Pianist—Greg Membrez, UUCM Music Director

June 14: Topic TBA Rev. Kent Hemmen Saleska
Pianist—Greg Membrez, UUCM Music Director

June 21: *Father's Day* Rev. Kent Hemmen Saleska
Music: Special music with Jon Bidler
Pianist—Sara Bidler

Annual Summer Picnic following Service. Bring a dish to share!

June 28: *Solstice Service* Jay White
Music: TBA
Pianist—Maxine Dickson

Stewardship Opportunities

Summer opportunities abound for you to serve your church.

Usher—Two Ushers are needed every Sunday morning for the 10 am service to see that the chairs are set, to hand out the bulletins and greet people, to take the offering, to count the attendance and record on form for Office Administrator and to straighten up following the service. Information is available in the bookcase at the rear of the sanctuary or contact Emilie Fitch at officeadmin@mtn.org and she'll be glad to email you your own personal copy!

Chalice Lighter— A Chalice Lighter is needed at every Sunday morning service as the chalice is always lit when we gather. Many of our children and youth who are in 5th grade or older have had training in chalice lighting and are eligible to participate. You are encouraged to volunteer for one Sunday during our summer season which extends through September 6.

You will find sign-up sheets on the office door for both of these opportunities.

Flowers for the Sanctuary—You may sign-up to place flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. The sign-up sheet for that is on the wall near the name tag holder. Just indicate if you are placing them in honor, celebration or memory of someone or something.

Facilitators—The following Ministries are in need of Facilitators: Communications, Facilities, Finance, and LRE. Contact Alison Albrecht at alison-albrecht@comcast.net if interested.

Report on Annual Meeting (continued from page 3)

The Ministries were thanked for their ongoing works and the following Facilitators are stepping down: **Weld Ransom**, Worship Arts; **Chris Hermann**, Finance; **Michelle Maxwell**, LRE; **Lisa Stevens** and **Claire Cunningham**, Communications; **Lee Kaster**, Facilities. Kudos to them all! The Worship Arts Ministry has a new Facilitator in **Jon Bidler**. Welcome! The following Facilitators are continuing: **Deanna Johnson**, Community; **Susanna Pres-seller**, Membership and **John Crosson**, Social Action. Thanks to you all! Still needed are Facilitators for Finance, LRE, Communications and Facilities. If you have interest, please contact Alison Albrecht at alisonalbrecht@comcast.net or Mike Elliott at mikeelliott05@msn.com

The Committee on Ministry (COM) said good-bye to two of its Marys, **Mary Cotton Levin** and **Mary Loberg**. Joining **Gary Charles**, **Fred Harms**, **Tom Lindquist**, and **Mary Opheim** will be **Karen Hulting** and **Joanne Meehl**.

Thanks were extended to the extremely great job being done by the Relocation Task Force (report on page 3). These include chair **Christy Dachelet** joined by **Shirley Wilson**, **Chris Hermann**, **Bob Dachelet**, **Joe Cain**, **Rachel Williams**, **Jay White** and **Jim Beneke**.

It was announced that as of July 1, 2008 we had \$314,961 in our Capital Campaign Funds. As of April 30, 2009 that has grown to \$490,758! Steve commented that is a wonderful amount, especially in light of the economy in the past 12 months.

The budget for the 2009-10 year, which runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, was presented by the Board to authorize the expenditure of \$253,885. It was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee presented the following candidates for the Board of Trustees.

Jackie Smolen – one year term expires May 31, 2010

Steve Sundby – one year term expires May 31, 2010

Alison Albrecht – one year term expires May 31, 2010

Bob Dachelet – three year term expires May 31, 2012

Michael Gower – three year term expires May 31, 2012

Michael McGee – three year term expires May 31, 2012

They were accepted with no dissenting votes.

The following people continue to serve on the Board until May 31, 2011: Noel Martinson, Bill McKnight and Kevin Johnson.

The Nominating Committee presented the following candidates to serve as Officers for the 2009-2010 church year: **President – Alison Albrecht**;

Vice President – Noel Martinson; **Treasurer – Michael Gower**. They were accepted with no dissenting votes.

The Nomination Committee presented the following candidates to serve as members of the Nominating Committee for one year terms: **Deanna Johnson**, **Melissa Martinson** and **Michael Elliott**. They were accepted and it was noted that the Board President has the responsibility to appoint two more members to that committee.

Steve received a hearty round of applause for a job well done throughout the year and for, maybe, conducting the meeting in record time!



**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.

Also, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter electronically or in paper form, please contact officeadmin@mtn.org or 952.473.5900, to remove your name from the newsletter list. Thank you!



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

President, Alison Albrecht; Vice Pres., Noel Martinson,
Treasurer; Michael Gower, Jackie Smolen; Steve Sundby,
Kevin Johnson; Bill McKnight, Michael McGee
Ex-Officio: Christy Dachelet, Relocation Task Force Chair

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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.