

# The Chalice FI me

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

May 2006

Sunday Services 9:45 & 11:30 am

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Website: www.kentuu.org Email: uukent@sbcglobal.net

#### Minister:

Rev. Melissa Ziemer minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Minister's office hours: Tuesday - Friday By appointment

#### Office Manager: Judy Brannan Office hours:

Mon. Wed. Thurs. 9 - 1 Tues. 9 - 11 Fri. 8:30 - 1:30

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The 15th each month

nitarian Universalism has the power to transform lives. If you want evidence, I encourage you to look to our youth. For many, youth group is a place where they are not only allowed, but encouraged to practice being their best unique selves. For others, youth conferences and district and national leadership opportunities provide the outlet for growing and exploring. Part of what makes our youth movement so powerful is their understanding of something very simple but profoundly important in our religious tradition: they know in their bones that ministry is something we do together.

Many of our youth have grown up in our Unitarian Universalist churches and they have been taught from day one that they matter. They have been taught they have gifts, that this is their religious home and that we depend upon their contributions. Our youth demonstrate that they have learned these lessons well in the way they do ministry.

One of the best places I know to witness this in action is at a youth conference. Youth cons are amazing weekend events during which youth connect with each other, attend and lead workshops, play, sing, do service projects, learn, grow and explore (sleeping is not a high priority). They also create and lead worship which is invariably participatory and multi-sensory. Youth worship invites everyone into the circle. Youth worship is a place where youth live out the lessons they learned as children – everyone matters, everyone is wanted and needed, everyone is welcome.

The youth who connect with this model of youth ministry are often transformed by their experience of radical hospitality. They are enriched by the opportunities for spiritual exploration and inspired by the invitation to develop as leaders. The youth who do not connect with this model of youth ministry either find ways to be a part of their larger congregations through some other entry point or they quit coming to church.

The Unitarian Universalist Association is conducting a two year Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth. The goal of the consultation is to learn how to build on the great strengths of our youth ministry models while also learning from the youth who do not connect with those models. The goal is to make our youth ministry even more vital, alive and inclusive. You are invited and encouraged to add your voice to the conversation later this month (details inside).

You are also invited to be a part of our own Religious Education Re-Visioning Forum (see page 3). It has become clear that the Workshop Rotation Model of religious education is not working well for our church at this time. We hope you will help us take stock. I especially encourage parents whose children have been reluctant to participate in religious education this year to attend the re-visioning forum. The more voices in the conversation, the better chance we have of envisioning a children's program that really works for us.

We are learning this year that our ministry to and with children, youth and families is not as strong as we know it can be. Together, we can change that. Church is one of the only places left in our society where people of all ages congregate. Here we have opportunities to learn and grow, work and worship together. Sometimes that can be a challenge, but when we do it well, it becomes a powerful blessing. We need all of us to help move toward more abundant blessing. After all, ministry is something we do together.

Melissa

## May Sermons

- 5/7 One morning service only- 10 AM- Facing the Future- Rev. Dr. Thandeka preaching, Melissa Ziemer leading When we face the future together, the spiritual power of our Unitarian Universalist faith gives us the courage and commitment needed to heal and transform ourselves, each other, and the world.
- 5/7 **3 PM-** Ordination and Installation of Melissa Ziemer. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- 5/14 *Healthy, Hale, Whole* Melissa Ziemer and Worship Associate Linda Mishler Sickness doesn't always equal brokenness, nor does good health guarantee wholeness. This morning is a meditation upon well-being.
- 5/21 *To Be Announced* Melissa Ziemer and members of the youth group We are still in the planning process for this service. Look to the Thread from the Web for more information about our theme.
- 5/28 140 Years of Standing Witness Service is in planning process.

Members of the Social Justice Committee

# **Upcoming Annual Report and Annual Meeting**

The May 2005 – April 2006 Annual Report will be available at the rear of the sanctuary beginning on April 30, in preparation for the Congregational meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday May 13th. Questions can be asked about the Annual Report at the meeting. Additional agenda items include: presentation by the Director of Religious Education, discussion of by-law changes, and discussion of a capital campaign. The church Annual Meeting will be held between services on Sunday, May 14th. A quorum is needed for this important meeting, at which time voting will take place for new Board members, the Financial Secretary, new Nominating Committee, proposed changes to the By-laws, and Congregational Sponsorship of Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke as a candidate for fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

As a part of her ministerial formation and credentialing, Renee needs official sponsorship by a UU congregation. This is to let the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) know that she is actively involved in and committed to a Unitarian Universalist congregation. Sponsorship does not involve any financial obligations of the part of the congregation, but it does imply that the congregation has confidence in Renee's potential and suitability for UU ministry.



# Where's Walden in the Spring?

This year we shall be changing our Spring Walden activity a little and in an exciting way! May 20th is River Day in Kent. We have been asked by Kent Environmental Council to pilot what will hopefully be an ongoing program of testing the water quality of the Cuyahoga and its tributaries. We shall be asking you to sign up to participate in this activity. Look out for the flyer and sign up sheet. We also hope to do some trash cleanup and show the results. Here is the program at this time:

Date: Saturday, May 20th, 2006

**9:00 AM-** Meeting at church for training in water sampling **10:00 AM-** Ceremony in new Heritage Park to open River Day. Henry Thoreau will participate

**10:30 AM-** Teams will go to sample river and to pick up trash **Noon-** Group will show results probably under the bridge in the park.

Celebrate and investigate with us. For more information contact Gordon Vars (330-678-0006), Liz Erickson (330-673-2152) Jim Scott

### Socially Conscious Mutual Funds

One good source of information about socially conscious mutual funds is the social investment forum web site (www.socialinvest.org). I do not want to recommend any specific funds, but some of the well known mutual fund companies are Calvert, Citizen, Domini, Parnassus, and Pax World. The above web site gives information regarding the screening criteria used by a particular fund (e.g., not involved in defense industry, labor relations). If you don't have access to the web feel free to give me a call: Kathy Kerns, 677-1014.

# Let's Join Together to Put Religious Education Back on Track

hen my husband Joe and I moved into our two bedroom house 10 years ago we knew there were things we wanted to change. Some changes were simple and straight forward. Like our kitchen no longer has a parade of large pink flowers marching across the border and the living room walls are no longer painted pistachio green. Other changes, like the addition of an entire second floor clearly required professional input—lots of it! We had a professional architect, many financial and real estate consultants, a contractor, a liaison to the contractor, builders, roofers, plumbers, a city inspector and many more! After more than a year of labor, we have an addition to our house that truly pleases us.

But, of course, there is that grey area of home improvement tasks. Some projects are not as simple as a few coats of paint, but they don't seem to require professional input either. Take for example, our evergreen hedges. When we first bought our house we agreed that the hedges seemed overly formal for such a small house. They had been cut and fussed over so much by the previous owner that they resembled green boxes and triangles, not living bushes. Enter the electric hedge trimmer. In our haste and zeal to make the bushes look more "natural" we trimmed, and trimmed and trimmed those hedges. The end result looked more like a Dr Seuss illustration than the beautiful flowing bushes we had both envisioned. We cut too deeply too quickly.

Why the home improvement story? Well, I think that it serves as a great metaphor for the things that have gone well and the things that have flatly failed in our RE program this year. The classroom renovations went so well. The RE rooms have never looked better. They are bright and welcoming. The art supplies are all in one location. The nursery was moved to a safer location. We have a child-sized stage area and children's art is displayed in the third floor hallway.

What didn't go as envisioned was the change in the format of RE. I started this year full of enthusiasm for the programming change as many of you did. Many of us threw ourselves into the planning and implementing of the workshop rotation model. It seemed so exciting, so new and the answer to all of the RE

woes. And at first, it seemed to be working, but numbers in attendance never reached the numbers of the last school year. Something was amiss. Where were all the kids? Adult attendance was increasing every Sunday and many exciting things were happening at the church, yet kid attendance was bottoming out making the program more and more difficult to administer.

I have reflected a great deal over the dropping attendance numbers and I may never have an answer that fully satisfies me about this. But clearly the small numbers indicate that a response is needed.

What I have learned is that there are many ways to run a Religious Education program and no two programs look exactly alike. Each church needs to find the best fit. At this point, I am convinced that the workshop rotation model for an entire year was not the fit for our RE program. Through it all it was a great learning experience for me as well as for the teachers. I have also learned that a Religious Education program must be a response to the current needs of the families it is serving to be successful. If it is not offering support to families right when they need it then they may not see the value in attending every Sunday especially when it appears that the program is so sparsely attended. I also have a clearer understanding that families and children must be given an opportunity to express those needs so programming can be organic to that community, rather than programming that looks so exciting on paper.

So, I ask for your input. It is time for a change in the Children's Programming. The direction of that change needs to come from you. What does programming that truly serves this community look like? I ask that you make time to attend the Annual Congregational meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> where there will be a brief overview of the RE program. And I want to strongly encourage you to attend the **RE Re-visioning Forum on Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> from 7-8PM in the sanctuary**. I know we can get back on track.

Oh, and by the way, if you have any pointers on trimming hedges, I could sure use some help there, too.

Peace, Michelle Culley, Director of Religious Education

#### **Book Group**

**Tuesday, May 9**, 7 pm. Meet at the home of Martha Kluth, 1060 De Leone Dr., Kent. The book will be The Known World by Edward P. Jones.

**Tuesday, June 13**, 7 pm. Meet at the home of Linda Bunyan, 77 Davenport Ave., Akron. Meet at the church parking lot at 6:30 pm if you wish to carpool. The book will be My Name is Red by Orhan Pamuk.

#### **Personals**

New e-mail address - Kathy Kerns has a new email addressuukathy@gmail.com

**Dog/House Sitter Needed:** We would like to hire someone to house and dog sit for us when we are out of town from June 8 to July 11. We have a very social Black Lab who would like a companion in our absence. If interested, please contact Kathy or Kevin Kerns, 330/677-1014.

# Two Additions to Proposed By-Law Changes

Readers of last month's Chalice Flame will recall an article summarizing proposed changes to the church's by-laws. In addition to those by-law items, it has been proposed that clarifying language be added to the by-laws to better define Action Teams. Action Teams are groups formed by church members in order to pursue a common interest. Examples of Action Teams include: Men's Group, Play Reading Group, Celtic Clan, Hogwarts, and the Out To Lunch Bunch. These groups are not required for the benefit of the church structure, and thus, are not standing committees requiring filled positions as dictated by the by-laws. Action Teams can be on-going or created for a short-term purpose, such as the group working on the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

No change is proposed to the functioning of Action Teams. However, to ensure that everyone understands how the Action Teams fit into the church structure, the following clarifying language is proposed as an addition to the by-laws.

"Any group of individuals that contains at least some members of the church that wishes to become an Action Team may do so by identifying a Council with which it wishes to align, contacting the Board member responsible for coordinating that Council and asking to be recognized as an Action Team, demonstrating that its purpose aligns with the mission and vision of the church and that its leadership includes church members. Action Teams determine their own organization and select their own leadership. They should have representation at Council meetings and keep their Board member informed of their activities."

The second proposed addition is a new section entitled "Child Safety," containing the following language. "The leader of any church sponsored activities that include children or youth shall consult with the Director of Religious Education to ensure that proposed activities are consistent with church policy and safety guidelines."

Questions or comments regarding the proposed language should be directed to the members of the By-Laws Team, Susan Goekler or Christie Anderson.

# Tai Chi

Tai chi is an ancient Chinese meditative practice that involves flowing movements. Tai chi classes are held on Monday evenings in Fessenden hall. Beginners start at 8 pm, intermediate students at 7:30, and advanced students at 7 o'clock. Newcomers are welcome to start any Monday; it is an open class.

Please wear loose fitting clothes and socks or slippers. The suggested donation is \$5, which goes to the church for utilities.

For more information, contact Susan Goekler, certified instructor with the Tai Chi Association of Atlanta, GA. You can reach her at 330-633-1846 or <a href="mailto:sgoekler@neo.rr.com">sgoekler@neo.rr.com</a>

#### Out to Lunch Bunch

We extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to join others for lunch - Dutch treat - after church on Sundays. The schedule of where we will meet follows - changes will be announced in the Thread.

May 7 El Campesino (Rt. 59, near Stow Kent Plaza)

May 14 China City (Rt. 43 in University Plaza)

May 21 El Campesino

May 28 China City

#### **Among Ourselves**

Congratulations to Ellen McCurdy and Earl Brubacher who were recently married in our sanctuary. Theirs was a simple and lovely service.

Jane and Ed Krimmer's dear friend Jim Brimhall died a few weeks ago. Please hold Jane and Ed in your hearts. Alyce McAdam also died in late March. Alyce was a member of the Urban Hope Unitarian Universalist Congregation. She was a friend to many Unitarian Universalists as she was one of the golf cart drivers at Summer Institute. Our condolences to her friends and family.

Val Norfolk's mom is experiencing a recurrence of cancer. This is a challenging time for their family. So too is it for Dave and Betsy Inks (Betsy is Linda Mishler's sister) as Dave struggles to recover from back surgery. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

Happy Birthday to all who celebrate another year of life in May! And Happy Church Anniversary to Elaine Bowen, Sally Burnell and all who celebrate milestones in their affiliation with our church.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in next month's Among Ourselves column, please contact our minister, Melissa Ziemer.

#### Sermons and Minutes Available

Some of Rev. Melissa Ziemer's past sermons are available in the Founders' Lounge for \$1.00 each. Your donation can be placed in the black lockbox, also in the lounge.

The Board meeting minutes are available for review in the Founders' Lounge.

#### Celtic Clan

5/1	7 PM Woodlands at Robinson
5/1 5/8	7:30 Practice
5/15	7:30 Practice
5/22	7 PM Loyalton of Ravenna
5/27	Celtic Clan will be playing at the British Car Show at
	the Marvin Kent Home around 11 AM.
5/29	No practice



# Meadville Lombard Theological School Commencement

At Meadville Lombard Theological School, we educate students in the Unitarian Universalist tradition to embody liberal religious ministry in UU congregations and wherever else they are called to serve.

For those Unitarian Universalists who live in the greater Chicago area or are planning travel to the Windy City the first weekend in June, we extend an invitation to join us as we confer degrees upon the next generation of leaders in our faith movement. Come to our commencement ceremonies on June 4, 2006 at 3:00 at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, 5650 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert, Minister Emeritus of First Unitarian Church of Rochester will be the commencement speaker and the Rev. David E. Bumbaugh, Professor of Ministry at Meadville Lombard, will lead the charge to the graduates. A reception will follow the ceremony.

You are also welcome to join us for a dinner for the graduates on Saturday, June 3, at 6:00 p.m., also at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. Tickets to the dinner are \$38 per person and RSVPs are required no later than May 19.

This is an exciting event for Unitarian Universalism and we welcome you to be a part of it.

For more information or to order tickets for the dinner, please contact the Executive Assistant to the President at echavez@meadville.edu or 773-256-3000 x222.

# The Consultation on Youth Ministry: An opportunity for Visioning and Growth

Ministry with youth is about listening, empowerment, and spiritual guidance. It is instrumental to the vitality and growth of Unitarian Universalist communities. The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is embarking on a two-year process to revitalize and strengthen youth ministry. Our congregation's engagement in the process is essential to its success. The Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth is designed to be a grassroots process that begins with input from individuals and congregations and progresses to districts and the organizations that provide services and support to the congregations. It is an inclusive and transformative process.

The first step that our congregation has taken in this process was the completion of a survey by several youth who are, or have been, involved in our congregation. This survey was made available during January and February for completion by youth in our church. To view a copy of the survey online, visit www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/ymsurvcy.html.

Our congregation's next step will be an opportunity for listening, dialogue, visioning and strategizing at our intergenerational Youth Ministry Congregational Conversation on May 21 at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:30. Because this conversation is about the life and vitality of our congregation as a whole, everyone is encouraged to attend and actively participate. The effectiveness of this conversation will depend on the participation of our congregation's stakeholders and leaders. The gathering will be co-facilitated by Luke Scott and Mike Hovancsek. Contact Michelle Culley, Luke, or Mike for more information about how to become involved in this exciting opportunity for our congregation.

Luke Scott

#### Kent Universalists first in aid

In Portage Pathways, Roger DiPaolo's history column in the Record Courier, it was mentioned that the Universalist church of Kent (our predecessor) was the first group to organize a fundraiser for victims of the San Francisco earthquake in 1906. Four days after the earthquake, "Rev. Lotta D. Crosley of the First Universalist Church of Kent proposed holding a benefit concert at the church to raise funds for survivors . . . The neighboring Congregational church, headed by the Rev. M. S. Freeman, responded to Rev. Crosley's appeal and teamed up to participate in the concert, which was held on . . . Sunday, April 22."

Sounds like something we would do today, doesn't it?

Brad Bolton

#### A New Face

Most new attendees don't make themselves as conspicuous as Sevim McCutcheon does. But most new folks don't set up an information booth every Sunday, either. You can find her at coffee hour collecting signatures at her SpanOhio table.

Sevim, originally from Lakewood, Ohio, moved to Caldwell, Ohio, several years ago. She attended the Unitarian Church in Marietta even though it was a 50 mile round trip. Now she appreciates the opportunity to visit three area Unitarian Churches since she and her husband, Rick McMillan, moved to Kent because of a change in work. Sevim is now a librarian at the Kent State main library and loves having work and activities nearby.

Sevim found us on the web and has already met with the Social Justice Committee and is in a Small Group Ministry. Desiring a wider religious experience, she visited the United Church of Christ Easter Sunday, then rushed to our church to catch Melissa's talk the same day. She appreciates the diversity of people in our church. She would like to have a minute during the service to meet others around her, however. And better recognition of new visitors, perhaps a unique visitor's name tag. She would like to see a few online chat groups for the church, too - one for administration, one for social justice, etc.

And SpanOhio? It is a grassroots group petitioning the state legislature for affordable publicly funded, privately run, health care for all Ohioans. Go to www.spanohio.org for more.

Brad Bolton



# **Church Babysitters Network**

Planning a church event? Or any gathering large or small? Remember to incorporate babysitting in your plan. Under the guidance of our DRE, Michelle Culley, a babysitting network was developed with a group of our dedicated and reliable youth (ages 12-16). Parents who utilize these services will be responsible for a pre-arranged fee for babysitters and meal/snack for children if applicable. For babysitting arrangements or questions, please contact Laura Teagle @ 330 688 3563.

# Yoga Schedule at Church

Sundays - Heidi/Barb 5-6:30 pm - beginner/moderate yoga

Mondays - Heidi Shaffer 10:15 - 11:45 am - gentle yoga 5:15-6:45 pm - gentle yoga

Tuesdays - Margot Milcetich 5:15-6:45 pm - moderate yoga 7-9 pm -challenging yoga

Wednesdays - Heidi 9:30-11 am - moderate yoga

Thursdays - Heidi/Megan 4:15-5:45 pm - gentle/moderate yoga 6-7:30 pm - moderate yoga

# **UU Bed & Breakfast Directory**

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

Check out our website at <a href="www.UUreHome.com">www.UUreHome.com</a>, where entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added and you can charge a membership to your credit card. The 2006 edition of the annual paper directory will be available in April and can be ordered by sending a check for \$18 (or \$23, along with your e-mail address, for both the directory and a year's access to the website) to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

#### May Calendar

1 Mon.	10:15 AM- Gentle Yoga 5:15 PM- Gentle Yoga		5:15 PM- Yoga (Moderate) 7:00 PM- Yoga (Challenging)	20 Sat.	10- 2:00 PM- Quilt Class– auction event FH
	7:00 PM– Tai chi	10 Wed	10:30 AM- Yoga	21 Sun	12:30- 4:00 PM- Youth Worship
	7:00 PM- Celtic Clan @ Wood-	10 Wed.	7:00 PM- Pilates	21 Juli.	Assoc. p. 5
	lands at Robinson		7:00 PM- Women's Choir		6:30 PM- Choir
	7:30 PM- Women's Choir		(7:00) 7:15 PM- Board meeting EA		7:00 PM- AA
2 Tue.	5:15 PM- Yoga (Moderate)	11 Thur.	4:15 PM- Yoga		7:30 PM- Women's Choir
_ 1	7:00 PM- Yoga (Challenging)	11 111411	6:15 PM- Yoga	22 Mon.	10:15 AM- Gentle Yoga
3 Wed.	7:00 PM- Women's Choir		7:00 PM- Men's Group <i>EA</i>		5:15 PM- Gentle Yoga
	9:30 AM- Yoga	13 Sat.	10- 2 PM- Quilt Class– auction event		7:00 PM- Tai chi
4 Thur.	4:15 PM- Yoga		FH		7:00 PM- Celtic Clan at Loyal-
	6:15 PM- Yoga		7:00 PM- Annual Meeting p.2		ton of Ravenna
5 Fri.	12:00 PM- OWL Teacher training	14 Sun.	12:30- 3:30 PM- Tie-Dye Workshop	23 Tue.	5:15 PM- Yoga (Moderate)
	until 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 7		auction event FH		7:00 PM- Yoga (Challenging)
6 Sat.	OWL Teacher Training Continued		6:30 PM- Choir	24 Wed.	10:30 AM- Yoga
	6:00 PM- Pre-installation social		7:00 PM- AA		7:00 PM- Women's Choir
	hour and dinner, FH		7:30 PM- Women's Choir	27 Sat	10- 2:00 PM- Quilt Class- auc-
	8:00 PM- Pre-installation concert	15 Mon.	10:15 AM- Gentle Yoga		tion event FH
7 Sun.	10:00 AM- One Service		5:15 PM- Gentle Yoga		11:00 AM- Celtic Clan @
	OWL training continued		7:00 PM- Tai chi		Marvin Kent home (British
	3:00 PM- Melissa's Ordina-		7:30 PM- Celtic Clan practice		Car Show)
	tion/Installation		Newsletter deadline =8-()	28 Sun.	1:00 PM- 2006-2007 RE Teacher
	4:00 PM- Reception	16 Tue.	5:15 PM- Yoga (Moderate)		meeting FH
	7:00 PM- AA		7:00 PM- Yoga (Challenging)		6:30 PM- Choir
8 Mon.	10:15 AM- Gentle Yoga		7-8:00 PM-RE Revisioning Forum <i>p. 3</i>		7:00 PM- AA
	5:15 PM- Gentle Yoga	17 Wed.	10:30 AM- Yoga		7:30 PM- Women's Choir
	7:00 PM- Tai chi		7- 8:00 PM- Pilates		Memorial Day
	7:30 PM- Celtic Clan practice		7:00 PM- Women's Choir	30 Tue.	5:15 PM- Yoga (Moderate)
9 Tue.	11:30 PM- Campus Minister's Org.	18 Thu.	4:15 PM- Yoga		7:00 PM- Yoga (Challenging)
	mtg.		6:15 PM- Yoga	31 Wed.	10:30 AM- Yoga
					7:00 PM- Women's Choir

Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall \*EA- Eldredge Annex; FH- Fessenden Hall; FL- Founders' Lounge; S-Sanctuary

The calendar will not reflect additions or changes after 4/20

#### SERVIMOS—We Care

That is the name of the non-profit organization founded by Dr. William Brinker, a retired ophthalmologist of Kent, OH. Dr. Brinker, professional colleagues, nurses and volunteers from all over the United States and Canada have joined together to provide basic sight care to people in third world countries like Cambodia, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador Many of these volunteers have worked together to provide these services since the 1970's.

An advance team alerts the area surrounding the clinic location so transportation arrangements may be made in advance. These villagers often walk a mile or more up or down mountain sides to reach a highway for transport to the clinic. Transport is usually standing in the bed of a pickup truck and may take 2-3 hrs.

Services include distance and near vision testing, consultation, refraction and placement of prescription and reading glasses, diagnosis, education and treatment of glaucoma, cataracts, and pterygiums and placement of artificial eyes.

Volunteer groups here at home create information about eye care, and treatment of childhood diarrhea on the back of greeting card pictures that accompany the case for each pair of placed glasses

The eye group works all year to prepare for the trip. Four to six thousand pairs of glasses are placed each eye mission trip as well as the surgeries and artificial eyes. This service is made possible through your donations of personal glasses whose prescription is read and recorded to brighten the sight of someone in need in another country.

Accompanying this group is an amazing and humbling experience that reinforces the theory that we are indeed our brother's keeper and the web that binds us wraps around the world..

Annie Brightbill

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent 228 Gougler Ave. Kent, OH 44240



Return Service Requested Return Postage Guaranteed

Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame* 

The Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent requests the honor of your presence at the ordination and installation of

Melissa Jean Ziemer

Sunday, May 7, 2006

at three p.m. in the Sanctuary

Reception to follow in Fessenden Hall at four p.m.

230 Gougler Avenue, Kent, Ohio



All UU members and friends are invited to attend the Ordination/Installation Celebration Concert & Dessert Saturday, May 6th at 8pm in the Sanctuary.

