



The Chalice Flame



The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

July 2007

Sunday Services

10:30 (Summer schedule)

228 Gougler Ave.

Kent, Ohio 44240

Phone: 330-673-4247

Fax: 330-677-4772

Website: www.kentuu.org

Email: uukent@sbcglobal.net

Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-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

Religious Education Director:

Gina Maida

dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Music Director:

Hal Walker



Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton

bbolton@neo.rr.com

Deadline:

The 15th each month

This summer is going to be a growing time for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. Five of us from our church community will be traveling to Portland, OR this summer for UU University and General Assembly. UU University is an opportunity for leaders from all of our congregations to come together for a time of focused learning and reflection. Kathy Kerns and Beth Wills will be attending UU University and we can look forward to the new ideas and energy they will bring back to our church. Mac Goekler, Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke and I are all attending General Assembly. GA is a four day gathering of thousands of Unitarian Universalists from across the country and around the world for learning, worship, refreshment, stimulation and business. The delegates from each member congregation have an opportunity to participate in the governance of our larger Unitarian Universalist Association. I look forward to sharing some of my own GA inspiration with you when I return.

I am also very excited to tell you that five people from our church will be participating in a new collaborative initiative between four Unitarian Universalist districts known as Leadership Institute. Leadership Institute is a week long opportunity for congregational leaders to study and reflect in five concentration areas including: congregational growth and leadership, governance, small group ministry, justice-making and family ministries. Prominent Unitarian Universalist leaders from around the country will serve as faculty and advisors for this intensive week. I am so pleased to tell you that Joel Slater, Christie Anderson, Bret Orsburne, our new Director of Religious Education Diana VanWinkle and I will be attending Leadership Institute this summer. This is a tremendous opportunity for our congregation and we are all sure to benefit from the ideas and energy that will infuse our congregation when we return. I want to express deep gratitude to the people who have anonymously and generously donated the funds to cover the expenses associated with sending members of our congregation to leadership institute. Thank you for your support.

In other exciting news our church has developed a Library Action Team! Thanks to a financial gift to the church from a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron, designated funds from the church book sale and a generous matching gift from a member of our church who wishes to remain anonymous, our library team has \$1,500 available to begin building our collection. More information about the collections plan and other exciting library news can be found in this newsletter.

Finally, I want to invite you to consider joining me for an opportunity available through Family and Community Services. Freedom House is a program of Family and Community Services providing safe shelter to homeless veterans. Freedom House has received a competitive federal grant to build a new and larger facility. The grant requires that the organization raise matching funds through both financial and in-kind contributions. We have been invited to help support Freedom House by adopting a room. Adopting a room involves committing to raise the funds necessary to furnish the room and providing the manual labor to paint and arrange the furnishings. I think this would be a wonderful opportunity for a group of us to work together in service to veterans and the larger community. If you are interested in participating, please do let me know.

In faith and fellowship,

Melissa

July Sermons

July 1 On Progress

Kristofer Sperry

Are we "hard wired" to desire anything but our here and now? This service will explore the concept of progress within our church, our society, and our daily lives.

July 8 Inspiration!

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Marion Yeagler

July 15 The Truth Is In the Story

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

July 22 Healing Energy

Lay Leaders Linda Mishler and Lori McGee

We will explore energy sources in our lives and how they affect us. We will use guided meditation to enhance "good" energy.

July 29 GNU / Ubuntu: Communities of Sharing

Lay Leader Julie Swango and Michael Kreyche

Yes, even the computing world has embraced UU principles. This service will explore their story.

Message from the Moderator

I thought I would use this column to introduce myself by telling you a bit about my religious journey as a UU.

I started attending a UU church when I was 5 years old and living in Tulsa, OK. All Souls Unitarian Church was a liberal religious oasis in the heart of the Bible Belt. I have always appreciated my religious education training, which emphasized choice in spirituality, the value of exploring and respecting diverse religious traditions and beliefs, and the importance of living one's values. During college I drifted away from church but got involved again when I worked in Denver for 2 years. I attended an inner city church where I became involved mostly in the work of the Social Justice committee. I attended my first national UU conference, a social justice gathering focused on housing issues. One highlight of the trip was singing social justice songs with Carolyn McDade— author of the hymn *Spirit of Life*— as our choir director.

I moved to Kent 18 years ago when I was hired as a professor in the Psychology Department at Kent State University. Initially I attended the Akron UU church and participated in several activities sponsored by their social justice committee (building a Habitat for Humanity house, working at a soup kitchen, taking a workshop series on socially conscious investing). My husband Kevin is a Quaker, and we were married by a former Kent church minister, Julie-Ann Silberman-Bunn (who attended a Quaker seminary).

I started attending the Kent church more regularly about 10 years ago so that my (then) toddler would grow up in a UU church.

Over the years I have been involved in many different leadership positions at church, but it is the other things our church offers that has kept me attending here regularly. I have found opportunities for growth and fellowship through participating in a parent covenant group, a voluntary simplicity circle, Walden activities, and the denominational gatherings Summer Institute and Winter Institute. I have been most profoundly affected by the people I have met at this church. I won't embarrass anyone by naming names, but I have found many members of this church who are an inspiring example to me as I try to live my life in accord with my values. With their grace, warmth, compassion, and thoughtfulness they provide great models.

My husband does not usually attend church Sunday morning (he seems much more interested in the potlucks!), but you may see my sons Noah (12 years) and Alan (7 years) at church.

I hope to get an opportunity to hear about your religious journey sometime.

In faith and fellowship,
Kathy Kerns

Lending Library to be Started at Church

The Library Action Team has convened to start a library at our church! It will be located in the room off the sanctuary and off the Founder's Lounge. The members of the Library Action Team are: Sally Burnell, Chair, Lynn Kindsvatter, Missy O'Hara, and Martha Kluth with our minister, the Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, providing support. The first meeting of the team was held on May 24. We plan to visit the library at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron and speak to their library coordinator to gain ideas about church library operations. Our hope is to have the initial collection in place and the library open for use beginning in September 2007.

The team has identified a list of categories in which we hope to collect books including: UU History, UU Theology (including humanism), UU Biography, Small Group Ministry, social issues, social justice issues, spirituality, world religions, life milestones and passages, religious education and exploration and congregational issues (including fundraising, governance, growing and maintaining healthy congregations etc.). If you have feedback about the proposed acquisition categories, please direct your input to any member of the Library Action Team.

The Library Action Team will develop a list of specific titles we want to acquire within our collection categories by consulting the catalogs of the Unitarian Universalist Association Bookstore, Skinner House Books, Beacon Press and the Alban Institute. Materials will be acquired by ordering from those sources in addition to on-line vendors such as Amazon and E-Bay. Members of the congregation will also be invited to purchase specific titles from our acquisition list, and gift plates will be available for books donated in someone's name.

Look for more information from the Library Action Team in future newsletters. The August article will provide more information about our collection strategies, collection development policies (including details about how you can donate books to the library) and ways you can be involved in volunteering in our new library.

Martha Kluth



DVDs on Evolution Available for Borrowing

In April, Swanny and Ted Voneida attended a workshop at the East Shore Unitarian Church entitled "Thank God for Evolution: How Science Will Usher Religion into Its Greatness." The workshop presenters were former pastor Michael Dowd and science author Connie Barlow.

The Voneidas were impressed with the speakers and purchased a three-part DVD collection containing presentations by Dowd and Barlow. Ted and Swanny have graciously offered to loan these DVD's to church members. The three DVD topics include: "The Great Story," (The marriage of science and religion for personal and planetary well-being), "Celebrating Evolution" (Bridging Diversity, Trusting the Universe, Death Through Deep-Time Eyes), and "Evolutionary Christianity" (which sees the entire history of the cosmos and the complexity of life in a sacred way). Each DVD set stands alone so the three DVD sets can be viewed independent of one another. Each set of DVD's is 4 hours long.

During the summer-time absence of the Voneidas, distribution of the DVDs is being handled by Christie Anderson. If you would like to borrow one of the DVD sets, contact Christie.



Membership News

I'm excited to announce that we added six terrific new members to our church. Harry and Jan Noden, Anne Face, Peggy Parkinson, Kay Wind and Chrissy Findley signed the book in late May. A very warm welcome to you all.

Kay Clatterbuck

Summer New U Class Possible

If there is enough interest, a Summer New U Class will be held. The class would be one four hour session on a Saturday yet to be determined. Please see sheet on the Membership bulletin board conveniently located next to the coffee pot in the Fellowship Hall.

Kay Clatterbuck

Kudos to DRE Search Committee

The Board Of Trustees wishes to express its thanks to the Search Committee for the Director Of Religious Education. This committee was chaired by Laura Teagle, with John Marfy and Kathie Slater as committee members. They worked with care and diligence to assess the needs and desires of the community, to advertise for candidates, interview those interested individuals, and proceed through the hiring process. Again, we thank their stewardship and devotion to our church community and are delighted to have Diana VanWinkle as our new DRE.

Joel Slater, Programming Trustee



Use Your Skills at Church

Energized about Electricity? A Propensity for Plumbing? Relishing Repair work? Perhaps a Tenderness toward Technology? The Building and Grounds Trustee needs YOU! Put your skills to work to get things done.

Help us create a more pleasant space for worship and fellowship.

- Enable us to record services.
- Ensure the upkeep of our beautiful and historic building.
- Staff the soundboard for one service for a month.
- Protect our computers and wireless systems from fraudulent uses.

Contact Randy Ruchotzke to help make our church a most pleasant place to worship and socialize.

Yoga Schedule at Church

Sundays - Heidi/Barb
4-6:00 pm - Yoga and meditation
Mondays - Heidi Shaffer
10:15 - 11:45 am - gentle yoga
5:15-6:45 pm - gentle yoga
Tuesdays - Margot Milcetic
5:15-6:45 pm - moderate yoga
7-9 pm -challenging yoga
Wednesdays - Heidi
9:30-11 am - moderate yoga
Thursdays - Heidi/Megan
4:30-6:00 pm - gentle/moderate yoga
6:30-8:00 pm - moderate yoga

Collect Water and Soil

Whether it be for a weekend or a week, in our own backyards or halfway across the world, summer (hopefully) brings us time to relax. This summer please consider collecting a small (film container size) sample of water and/or soil from a place that has meaning for you. It may be a place of beauty and rest or a place where you know satisfaction and a sense accomplishment. Maybe it will be a place that moves you to wonder or a place where you delight in joy. Wherever it is that life takes you this summer, consider collecting a small sample from that place to share with the church during our Ingathering Service in September. Until then, have a great summer!

Board Meeting

July 11 at 7:15 in the annex.

Communication Ideas from the Committee on Ministry

In our UU quest to be ever more welcoming, the Committee on Ministry recently discussed ways to improve our communication flow. One idea that came up was to improve how intentionally we write newsletter articles. We want to make sure to communicate fully to the “stranger” or potential member.

Some points to consider:

- Use first and last names to fully identify individuals
- Avoid acronyms or fully define them on first use; (use Committee on Ministry, not COM)
- Give both full name, street address, email address, and phone number for events held off the Church campus.
- Use “after first or second service”, instead of simply saying “after the service.”
- State procedural routines in every newsletter; “All children and youth will join the adults in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of the month.”
- Announce all Church events as early as possible in writing to enable all to place on their calendar. Remember that traditional knowledge of events belongs only to those members who have been in fellowship for a while.

By following these gentle guidelines, our community will become more accessible and welcoming for those newly among us as they learn who we are and what we do. Any comments or questions will be warmly received by the members of COM: Kim Marfy, Saul Flanner, Jay Grech, or Kathie Slater.

July Church Events

1 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	2 10:15 am Gentle yoga 5:15 Gentle yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7 - Celtic Clan, Loyalton	3 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	4 8-10 pm Summer Harmony Singers practice	5 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga	6	7 1 - 6 pm Commitment ceremony
8 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	9 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Clan, Stow Glen	10 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	11 9:30 am Yoga 7-10 pm Board mtg. (EA) 8-10 Summer Singers	12 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga 7-9 Men's Group (EA)	13	14
15 Newsletter deadline Summer Institute starts 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	16 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi	17 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7:30 CUUPS; performing arts room	18 9:30 am Yoga 12-1:20 Secretary luncheon (EA) 8-10 Summer singers	19 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga	20	21 9-1 Tarot workshop (F)
22 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH)	23 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Celtic Clan (S)	24 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	25 9:30 am Yoga 10-12 am Upstairs Annex in use 8-10 Summer Singers	26 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga	27	28
29 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	30 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan (S)	31 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	1 August 9:30 am Yoga 8-10 pm Summer Singers	2 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga	3	4 10 - 4 pm OMD mtg. (EA)

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; L- Library; S-Sanctuary
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after June 20

New Calendar System

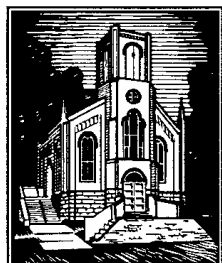
Since we're now a busier congregation, we've begun using an on-line calendar that you can access directly at www.localendar.com/public/uukent, or through our website at www.kentuu.org. We can update it as often as necessary and you can consult it any time day or night.

Don't have Internet access or really hate computers? Not to worry, paper versions of the same calendar will be available in the weekly *Thread from the Web* and monthly *Chalice Flame* newsletter.

Judy Brannan



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

Out to Lunch Bunch

July 1	China City
July 8	El Campesino
July 15	China City
July 22	On Tap
July 29	China City



Celtic Clan

July 2	7pm Loyalton of Ravenna
July 9	7pm Stow Glenn
July 16	no practice
July 23	7:30pm to 8:45 pm practice in sanctuary
July 30	7:30pm to 8:45 pm practice in sanctuary

Book Group News

On July 10 we will meet at 7 pm at the home of Martha Kluth. We will read a book of our choice by Jodi Picoult. The Washington Post reports, "Picoult has become a master-almost a clairvoyant-at targeting hot issues and writing highly readable page-turners about them...It is impossible not to be held spellbound by the way she forces us to think, hard, about right and wrong."

On August 14 we will meet at 7 pm Linda Bunyan's. The selection will be *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. This well-received novel is the story of a hostage crisis in a fictional South American country at a party thrown by the country's vice-president. If you would like to carpool to Linda's, meet at the church parking lot at 6:30.

On September 11 we will meet at 7 pm at the home of Kathie Slater. We will each share a book from our summer reading.

Martha Kluth