



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



August 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:

Diana VanWinkle
dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Music Director:

Hal Walker

Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton
bbolton@neo.rr.com

Deadline:

The 15th each month

I write to you this month from the Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute (otherwise known as SI). SI is basically a week long UU summer camp for families and individuals of all ages. Approximately 600 folks from our district are here this week. Each day includes time for worship, intellectual stimulation, sport, games, singing and lots of play. The programming choices are diverse and wide ranging. This week I have participated in a daily class on peacemaking focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict, won and then lost almost \$1,000 (of pretend money) in Texas Hold 'Em at Monte Carlo Night, played a rousing game called Peek with nearly 300 other people of all ages, listened to great music, had great conversations and three meals a day with other Unitarian Universalists. Because I have had worship leading and other ministerial responsibilities, I've not had a chance to take advantage of a number of exciting possibilities from a very popular art space to yoga to water sports on the Kokosing River to bicycle trips along the scenic Kokosing bike trail. If your interest in SI is piqued, I encourage you to ask others about their experience. There are 75 people from our church here this week and I think it is safe to say many of them would be delighted to share with you their own SI highlights.

The first day we were here, we learned a song during opening celebration about unexpected blessings. The song struck me because Ellen and I are currently preparing to make room for unexpected blessings in our lives. At the end of August, we will be traveling to Phoenix, AZ to pick up two of my nieces, Ana and Aliyah. We are going to be their temporary guardians for about 8 months. Though the circumstances that necessitate this arrangement are not happy ones, Ellen and I feel blessed to be able to offer tangible support despite our great distance from my family. We also feel blessed for this chance to get to know my delightful nieces better. Ana will be 3 in September and Aliyah will be 4 in October and we are looking forward to having their joyful presence in our lives on a daily basis.

Because they are so young, Ellen and I will be arranging our schedules to ensure that one of us is with them most of the time they are not in daycare. As a result, I will be trying to limit my evening meetings to two nights per week as much as possible. I will also be changing my sermon preparation day from Friday to Thursday so that Saturdays aren't quite so pressured. I will continue to be available for individual evening and weekend appointments as needed.

The words to that song I learned this week run through my head now as I write. We give thanks for unexpected blessings already on the way. May there be some around the corners of your own lives. And may you receive them in gladness.

In faith,

Melissa



August Sermons

August 5 **Healthcare is a Religious Issue** Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
 With the release of Michael Moore's film *Sicko*, healthcare is on our minds. This service will explore what liberal religious people of faith might have to add to the public conversation. The special offering this morning will be collected for SPAN-Ohio, the Single Payer Action Network. This is an organization that is working to put a measure on the ballot to provide for single payer health insurance for all Ohio residents.

August 12 **The Journey Continues...A Class Reunion**
 This service will reunite the "class of 2005" members who joined the church in 2005. Last year, these folks told you why they joined the church, now they will let you know what has kept them here.

August 19 **Our Universalist Heritage** Christie Anderson
 Join us as we celebrate UUCK's Universalist heritage and trace the theological changes of our church through the eyes of longtime members.

August 26 **On Happiness** Mike Hovancsek
 A service that focuses on the psychological, sociological, and spiritual aspects of happiness. Includes a transcendent story about the joys of wallpaper. With Worship Associate Christie Anderson.

Message from the Moderator

"One's calling is where one's deepest passions intersect with the world's greatest needs." --- Frederick Beuchner

What is your calling in life? And how does it connect with your participation at church?

There are many ways to be involved at church. To cite some examples of the opportunities, one can: enhance spiritual development through services and special classes; be moved by listening to or creating music; deepen relationships with others in our community; and partner with other members to address social problems. Many people also view service to the church as part of their personal ministry. They use their talents to help further the programs and activities of the church, through either occasional or ongoing volunteer commitments. If you are interested in becoming more involved in our church through volunteer service, but aren't sure how to get started, please feel free to contact me or other members of the Board of Trustees. Our minister, Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, would also be glad to meet with you if you would like assistance in discerning your call.

One of the goals for this year's Board of Trustees is to help nurture and develop church leadership. We are pleased that, as Melissa noted in her column last month,

many of our church members have recently attended leadership training opportunities sponsored by the UUA or our UU district, the Ohio Meadville District (OMD). District events are especially accessible as they are usually inexpensive to attend and within driving distance. Information on district sponsored training opportunities is available on line at omd.uua.org (feel free to contact me for information if you lack internet access).

I am also pleased to announce that on September 22 we will hold a church leadership retreat. The retreat is for people who are currently serving in, or are considering serving in, a position of leadership at the church. The members of the organizing team for the retreat are Bob Erdman, Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke, Joel Slater, and Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer. Please contact any of them if you would like more information (also watch for information in the newsletter).

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of help to you.

In faith and fellowship,
 Kathy Kerns, Moderator of the Board

Your Bucks at Work

Hi. I'm Beth Straubhaar, your Church Treasurer. In a nutshell, it is my job to pay the bills, and report our financial status to the Board and congregation. I am pleased to report that we are doing well financially, and have approximately \$12,500 in the General Fund. This is the fund that is used to pay salaries and other bills for the church. Please remember, we still have many expenses in the summer so keep those pledges up to date. If you are on a committee and need reimbursement for a related expense, there are a few simple steps required. First of all make sure that the expense is authorized by your committee. Next, fill out a green disbursement form and attach your receipts. Make sure the head of the committee or the appropriate Trustee signs the green form. Forms are located in the upper right hand side of the mailboxes in the annex. Place the completed form in my mailbox, and I will write out a check for you. Please allow 1 to 2 weeks for your check. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me .

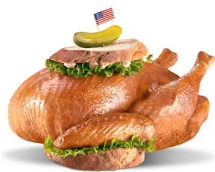
Now a word from the other Beth...Beth Wills, Trustee for Finance. I have the very broad responsibility of overseeing the work of the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary, as well as serving as liaison to the Fundraising Committee, the Stewardship Committee, and the Finance Committee. This year I am pleased to say that all these areas are well-staffed and thriving. Our Finance Committee, under the able guidance of Susan Goekler, is crafting a set of financial policies and procedures that will bring our financial

systems closer to "best practices." Bev Cole and our fundraising team are much more than halfway to their goal for the year.

We are running our traditional bake sale booth at the Kent Farmer's Market, and look forward to Taste 'n Tell, a great fundraiser involving food scheduled for September 28. Acme gift cards are available for purchase at coffee hour. Five percent of your purchase is returned to the church. Stewardship has begun plans for our fall canvass, which will be an 18-month canvass as we plan to change our fiscal year.

As we have passed the half-way point of 2007, I'm sure people have already begun wondering how we are doing for the year. With 2006's deficit still fresh in our minds, let me say that I feel we are in a much healthier situation this year. Our expenses year-to-date were budgeted at \$95,300; currently the actual expense line is \$90,900. Our total revenues year-to-date were projected to be \$90,400; currently we have brought in \$107,400. This puts us \$16,500 in the black – this time last year, the Board was already looking at a \$17,400 deficit for the year. We don't want to get too comfortable, however; with a monthly deficit for June of \$6100, we are definitely hitting the summer slump. Please keep those pledge checks coming in so that we can continue to meet our budgeted expenses!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. You can find me at church almost every Sunday, or call Beth , or email.



Taste and Tell Fundraiser

Calling all cooks! Friday September 28, UUC Kent will be hosting an extraordinary culinary delight. We need your best recipes and we need YOU to prepare them for us that day. You will need to prepare your dish to serve 10-15 people. We need every imaginable course – from appetizer to dessert – with the recipe included.

Calling all who like to eat! On the night of September 28, all are encouraged to purchase a ticket to this hopefully first-annual event. Enjoy a wonderful meal and leave with a cookbook full of the recipes you just "Tasted". Tickets will be on sale during coffee hour in August and September. Please call Linda for more information.



August Schedule for Melissa

I will be working and in the office from July 24 through 27. From July 28 through August 3 I will be participating in Leadership Institute in Huntingdon, PA. I will be accessible by cell phone that week for urgent concerns. From August 7 through 19 I will be on study leave. This is a time for me to read, write, reflect and prepare for the church year ahead. I will continue to be available for those two weeks by cell phone for urgent concerns. I will be working and in the office from August 21-23. On Friday August 24 I leave for Phoenix. I will be on vacation from then through September 2. If you have urgent concerns during that time, Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke will be on call.

Our Small Group Ministry

The shared ministry of Small Group Ministry provides safe opportunities for us

- to know and be known
- to engage, support and nurture each other
- to explore questions that matter with people who care
- to grow our souls
- to complement and enhance our church experience
- to encourage us as we bring our faith into the world

This statement reflects not only the theory, but also the practice of Small Group Ministry (SGM) here in our church. In the 2006-2007 church year approximately 60 people participated in Small Group Ministry. The following reflections about the experience are from our SGM facilitators:

- *Participating in Small Group Ministry was a wonderful experience for me. I learned a lot about myself and the other members of the group - and we were able to grow and share together after a very short period of time.*
- *For me, one of the best parts of being a Unitarian Universalist is the opportunity to discuss important topics. . . Participating in SGM offers an immediate Unitarian Universalist peer group to enjoy that process.*
- *SGM is a great way to get to know other members, sometimes intimately. You will learn their histories, values and goals and have a chance to think about your own.*



Board Meeting

The Board will meet August 8th at 7:15

August CUUPS Meeting

Our August CUUPS meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Our own Lisa Hart, aka Luna, will lead us in a workshop entitled Henna as Spell Work. Please plan to join us for this special meeting. We will also discuss our Fall schedule if time permits. If you have any questions about CUUPS, please contact Beth Straubhaar.

- *Small Group Ministry is the easiest/most efficient way to connect to other members in the church. If you attend a small group, you are going to have someone to say hello to at other gatherings of Unitarian Universalists.*
- *Members of the couples group found participating in SGM together as a couple was not a detriment, and in fact, members felt that participating with his or her partner enhanced the SGM experience.*
- *The evolvment of trust and sharing by individuals in the group made it very difficult to end the year. At the same time, we are looking forward to making new friends next year.*

Some of our groups took advantage of the opportunity to engage a service project together. One of the groups chose to collect and fill backpacks for children going into emergency foster care, one chose to host coffee hour together for a month, and one decided to develop topics for next year's Small Group Ministry sessions. Still another chose a landscaping project at the church. Here is what the facilitator had to say about the experience:

We had great attendance [at our service project], with one member driving down from a regional Unitarian Universalist meeting in Cleveland for a few hours to join us! We were all surprised at how much work it actually took to complete our project, but definitely felt pride and community once we were finished. We all went out for dinner together afterwards and really enjoyed the less formal time to chat and share.

More information about how you can participate in our 2007-2008 Small Group Ministry series will be available in the September newsletter.

Melissa Carvill-Ziemer



Pet Photos Needed

If you are anything like me, you've got tons of photos of / with your pet! I need them for an upcoming service, so send your favorites to me. Please limit your submissions to three per family / pet. All types of animals are welcome. Thanks so much!

Lori McGee

Thoughts from our New RE Director

If you change your imaginings, you can change the world!
(Ted Andrews, *The Art of Shape shifting*)

What a powerful statement and yet how true for each of us. Our imaginings, our visions, our choices, create our world. Now is an exciting time for the religious education program. Approximately 100 youth have participated in the RE program during the past few years! Talk about ability to influence our world, enhance imaginations and create opportunities for change.

Currently, the Religious Education Committee and myself are working to create our fall children's/youth RE program.

Opportunities for you to creatively improve our RE program abound. You can join the RE committee. Use your skills and talents. Shape the program. Create opportunities for our children and youth to grow, and maybe even grow yourself! You can also co-lead a classroom this fall. Yes, REALLY working with our youth is a great and wondrous experience. Two teams of leaders for each class will give classroom leaders opportunities to have support in the classroom and time to pursue other opportunities at UUCK. Contact Laura Teagle or Diana VanWinkle.

A wonderful new RE curriculum is on order and should arrive before you read this.

Throughout the past month, many folks have asked me how my "new job is going". My reply is, "I have never been so welcomed anywhere". I am in awe of the group of dynamic people that create the community known as the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. Thank you. I look forward to our journey together. I am in the office on Monday and Tuesday and available other times by appointment. Thank you for being so welcoming. My heart is overflowing...

In joy and with gratitude,
Diana

Sunday Program Committee

The quarterly meeting of the SPC to plan fall 2007 lay led services will be held on Wednesday, August 22 from 7 to 9 PM in the Annex. New members are welcome. Please submit proposals/ideas/suggestions for lay led services to Elaine Bowen no later than Monday, August 20.

Church Library Shaping Up

Lynn Kindsvatter of our team has sent out a questionnaire to church committees and action groups asking for materials (books, tapes, or videos) their group would like to donate or have purchased for the library. The survey had a completion date of July 22. At this time there is no guarantee that the materials will be purchased, but those that cannot be purchased now will be added to a wish list located in the library and distributed to members.

A form is available in the foyer on which you can list books you would like to donate and books you would like to see shelved in the library. Suggested categories are: UU History, UU Theology, UU Biographies, Gender Studies (all inclusive), Social Justice, Spirituality, Small Group Ministry, Religious Traditions (other than UU), Celebrating Milestones, Religious Education/Exploration, Congregational Issues, UU Curricula, and Sermons. Other categories may be suggested.

Books for donation may be brought to the library. However, with our restricted space, we can accept only a limited number of items. Books we cannot take may be returned to the donor or put into the book sale in the spring.

We hope to soon have a procedure to donate money to the library.

We plan to use volunteers to staff the library during coffee hour. A sign-up sheet will be available in the future.

Finally, we would like to name the library. Give your suggestions to one of the Library Action Team members (Sally Burnell, Lynn Kindsvatter, Peggy Parkinson, Missy O'Hara, and Martha Kluth).

Martha Kluth

Don't forget to 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!

Soon to be Homeless Plants Need You

We want to convert most of our front yard to grass. It is now almost all perennial plants. Can you give any of these plants a good home? The yard is mostly shade, although some of the plants would also do well with more sunlight. There are several different kinds of hostas, lamium, primrose, a few stray columbine, and several plants I can't identify. A donation will be requested for any plants you take as this is also a church fundraiser. (Two ways to be altruistic— save a plant and help the church general fund!) Please come by our house on Saturday August 4 from 10AM to 11:30AM. Questions? Contact Kathy Kerns.

Calling All Campers

Join us for an overnight camping trip on Friday and Saturday, August 17 - 18 at West Branch State Park located at 5708 Esworthy Road in Ravenna. Check-in is at 3 pm on Friday and check out no later than 1 pm Sunday. Can't stay overnight? Please join us for s'mores and songs around the campfire! The park offers hiking and biking trails and swimming. Space is limited to 30 people; first-come first served. Contact Jacklyn Czekaj to reserve your spot.

Evolution DVDs Available

As noted in last month's Chalice Flame, available for borrowing are 3 DVD's of Michael Dowd's presentations on the marriage of science and religion in exploring the story of creation. The DVD's were purchased and generously made available by Jo DeWilde and Swanny and Ted Voneida. To borrow the DVDs, contact Christie Anderson

Tai chi --

- a non-impact "meditation in motion." Although you can study it for a lifetime, by coming you do not make a commitment for any number of sessions -- come when you can. You are welcome to start any Monday night. Wear loose fitting clothing, as it is participatory. Questions? Contact Susan Goekler, certified tai chi instructor with the Tai Chi Association of Atlanta, GA

7:00 Advanced
7:30 Intermediate
8:00 Beginner

Columbus Day Weekend on Martha's Vineyard

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard invites you to join us over Columbus Day Weekend, October 6-8. Fall is the best season of all on the Vineyard. Just ask any year-rounder. The crowds are gone, the air is crisp, the water is still plenty warm for a swim. Birdlife is on the move along with the striped bass and the blues. There's no better time to hike and bike our unspoiled trails and back roads. So come on over. We'll put you up with host UU families, treat you to a seafood supper and entertainment, offer an Island tour and welcome you to Sunday service at historic Stevens Chapel. For complete information, see our website at www.uusmv.info (B&B Weekend link). We'd love to see you on the Island.

Sermons and Minutes Available

Some of Rev. Melissa Carvill-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.

Sermons on the Web

Recordings of some sermons are available at the church website, <http://www.kentuu.org/>. They can be downloaded or heard directly online, thanks to Mike Plishka (and me).

Families Feel the Heat

Summertime is a challenging one for families living in poverty. Children are home from school and resources for subsidized meals are quite limited. Food dollars need to be stretched and often there is not enough to go around. Please be especially generous this month with food donations for Kent Social Services. Always needed are the following: dry cereal, pasta & canned sauce, canned fruits & veggies, peanut butter, tuna and any meal-in-a-can items. Keep in mind child friendly items for snacks. Donation baskets are located across from the elevator on the ground level and outside the sanctuary on the second floor. This is an ongoing social action process to assist the hungry of Kent.

Thank you for your caring hearts and generosity.

August Church Events

29 12:30-2:30 Social Justice mtg. (FH) 4-6 Yoga 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	30 10:15 am Gentle yoga 5:15 Gentle yoga 7-8:30 Tai chi 7:30 - Celtic Clan (S)	31 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	1 9:30 Yoga 8-10 pm Summer Singers practice	2 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga	3	4 10-4 OMD long range planning mtg.
5 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	6 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Clan, Tower 43	7 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	8 9:30 am Yoga 7:15 Board mtg. (EA) p. 4 8-10 Summer Singers	9 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga 7-9 Men's Group (EA)	10	11
12 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	13 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan (S)	14 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	15 Newsletter deadline 9:30 am Yoga 6-8 Finance mtg. (EA) 8-10 Summer	16 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga	17 Camping at West Branch p. 6	18 Camping at West Branch p. 6 9-1:30 New U Class 6-9 Youth bridging
19 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH)	20 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Celtic Clan (S)	21 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7:30-9 CUUPS, art room p. 4	22 9:30 am Yoga 8-10 Summer Singers	23 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga	24 5-7:30 Set up for concert (S) 7:30 - Four Shilling Short (S) p. 8	25 11-12 Laughter Yoga 1-4 Packer baby shower
26 1-4 Picnic, Plum Creek 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	27 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 9-10 Clan, Long-meadow	28 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	29 9:30 am Yoga 8-10 Summer Singers	30 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga	31	1

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 July 22

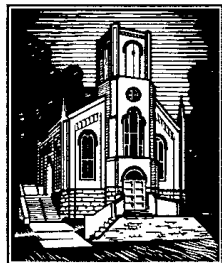
New Calendar System

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*

Book Club

On August 14 we will meet at 7 pm at 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.

Celtic Clan

8/6/07 7 pm - Tower 43 Kent
8/13/07 7:30 to 8:45 - Practice Sanctuary
8/20/07 7:30 to 8:45 - Practice Sanctuary
8/27/07 7 pm - Longmeadow Ravenna

Concert - Four Shillings Short

This noted Celtic group will play in the Sanctuary



Our own Pam Whittington, as seen at the Brady Lake Cardboard Boat Races. A member of the "Lucky 13" boat team, she is sporting a shirt that is color coordinated with the team boat. Stylin' !