



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



August 2008

Sunday Services

9:30 and 11:15
10:30 starting June 8

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Kent, Ohio 44240

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Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

Office Manager:

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Hal Walker



Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton

bbolton@neo.rr.com

Deadline:

The 15th each month

To live in this world
you must be able
to do three things:

To love what is mortal;
to hold it
against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;

And, when the time comes to let
it go,
to let it go.

by Mary Oliver

I have thought of these lines from one of my favorite poets often lately. Life has been giving me many opportunities to practice letting go. I have just returned from my trip to Arizona where I returned my nieces to their mother, my sister. That was very hard to do. Many of you have reached out to me with words, cards, thoughtful gestures and other kindnesses. Thank you. It has been meaningful to me and my family to experience your support. I have said before that this is a caring congregation and I know even better now what that means and how that feels.

Last month at our Pastoral Associates meeting we took time to evaluate aspects of our caring ministry. We observed that much of the caring that goes on among us goes on informally, between circles of friendship and acquaintance. This is a wonderful part of the fabric of our church life. It is part of what makes this church such a special place for so many.

The ministry the Pastoral Associates provide is not intended as a replacement for this caring between members and friends. Rather it is intended as an expansion – a widening of our net – so that we may ensure that opportunities to practice caring for one another do not pass us by. Practically speaking, we know that some opportunities have passed us by as we are not always able to hear the names people speak on Sunday mornings. Furthermore we are not always sure who would welcome a response to their concern and who wants only to participate in our ritual act of naming.

We have decided to make the opportunity to request caring more explicit by providing cards in each of the pews weekly. These cards will be multi-purpose in that they are intended for use by visitors, friends and members alike. The cards will replace our guest book, enabling visitors to both provide and request information. They will enable visitors, friends and members to note pastoral concerns and request support. They will also enable friends and members to indicate their interest in lighting the chalice during a future service. We intend to begin using the cards at our Ingathering Service in September. It will likely be revised a bit after we get to use it a while so please let me know if you have any ideas for improvement.

In faith, caring and gratitude,

Melissa

August Sermons

August 3 *Exploring Purpose*

Elaine Yehle Bowen with Worship Associate Lori McGee

Our new mission statement refers to us living lives of meaning and purpose. One small group ministry session last year posed the question "Do you know what your purpose in life is?" A bestselling book of several years ago was titled "The Purpose Driven Life" and a current bestseller explores both inner and outward life purpose. This service will explore purpose from several points of view and what it may mean to Unitarian Universalists.

August 10 *Water Musings*

Ed Stolish and Worship Associate Kristofer Sperry

Life without water is inconceivable to us. Water is the basis of the blood of animals, the sap of trees. It is the major constituent of all living things. Today's service will include observations about this universal solvent that are ecological, personal, and (possibly) spiritual.

August 17 *How Can I Help?*

Christie Anderson and Pastoral Care Associates Susanna Smart and Kathy Walker

Have you ever wanted to comfort a loved one in need but felt unsure about what to say or do? Join us as we explore the challenges that hinder altruism and examine the power of human presence.

August 24 *Common Threads*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

Who are we? Why do we come to this church? What are the ties that bind us together? This morning we will explore some of the threads that bind us together as one church with many paths. We will also celebrate our bridging youth and young adults this morning as we honor the transitions in their lives.

August 30 *Confessions of a Copy Store Jesus*

Saul Flanner & Kathy Walker

I've always been a fan of the teachings of Jesus. As a child growing up in the Episcopal church, I learned all the stories by heart. But for most of my adult life, Jesus and I have had a fairly dysfunctional relationship. And it's time to make amends. With a mix of humor, sincerity, and the occasional work-place anecdote, I'll attempt to show how the teachings of Jesus have made a positive impact in my life, and how non-Christians can reclaim the legacy of one of history's most radical spiritual teachers.

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.

You can listen to and download selected past services at the church website, www.kentuu.org. Recordings of recent complete sermons are available in the library on a shelf next to the door. A sign-out sheet can be found there, also.

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

The office secretary, Judy Brannan, will be on vacation July 30 through August 7, and will return to the office August 8.

Moderator's Message

Two months into my term as Moderator, I am realizing that one of the greatest benefits of serving in this role is the opportunity it provides to witness the multitude of ways that members and friends of the UUCK give generously of themselves and their resources in support of our church mission. As I write this, we're at the midpoint of summer on the school calendar, and although school life is on temporary hiatus, church life remains active and vibrant. Here are a few examples of how members and friends are including church in their summers:

Susan and Mac Goekler and Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer served as delegates for UUCK at the UUA General Assembly in June.

Hogwarts Kent Branch had a successful 3-day session in June.

The Stewardship Committee is busy planning for the Fall stewardship campaign.

The Capital Campaign Task Force appointed by the Board last April has been meeting regularly to prepare a recommendation to deliver to the Board sometime in the Fall.

The Fundraising committee sponsored a successful all-church pancake breakfast and has plans for more.

A dedicated handful of volunteers have been preparing and selling baked goods at the weekly Saturday morning Haymaker Farmers Market in Kent.



Hal Walker leads Summer Institute in song

Fall Walden at Presque Isle

Plan to explore our transcendentalist heritage in nature with Henry Thoreau at "Where's Walden?" in the Fall. Set aside the weekend of September 27-28 for a camping trip to explore Presque Isle in Lake Erie in Pennsylvania. Look for further information next month. This is an intergenerational event: children and adults are welcome. This has been a special time for many who have attended this Walden event in the past. Put the date on the calendar for this year! New UU's are extra welcome.

For more information contact Gordon Vars, Jim Scott, Ed Stolish, or Liz Erickson

Many members participated in the UUA Tents of Hope project spearheaded by our DRE Diana Van Winkle in conjunction with the Kent Heritage Festival.

Eighty-six members attended the annual Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute at Kenyon College.

Celtic Clan performed at the Kent Community Dinner in June and has a full calendar of Monday evening gigs throughout the summer.

The Board will hold a retreat on August 22, during which Rev. Kathleen Rolenz from the West Shore U-U Church will lead the Board in conversation and activities centered on "becoming a visioning Board". At that time we will formally set the calendar for the 2008-09 church year.

The Finance Council continues to make bank deposits and pay church bills, which would not be possible were it not for the fact that:

Many have heeded the call to keep our pledge payments up to date during the summer months. For those who need a nudge, July 27 has been designated "catch up on your pledge day". I hope you will use this opportunity to bring your pledge balance up to date if needed.

In appreciation for these and your many other gifts that collectively keep our church "alive" in the summer -

Rhonda Richardson, Moderator



Finance Committee Meeting

The next Finance Committee meeting is Tuesday, August 5. 7:00 p.m. in the Annex.

We will prepare a draft budget for the first 6 months of 2009. All Finance Committee meetings are open, so if you have a budget issue, you are welcome.

Susan Goekler

Books for Library

Discover what books we would like to buy for the church library by clicking on the library link at our church website. We would appreciate any gifts of either books or of money with which to buy them. Please contact the chair of our Library Task Force, Lynn Kinsvatter, if you can help with this.

Martha Kluth

Fall Stewardship Drive Update

As you have probably heard by now, the Stewardship Team is getting started on a six month stewardship drive. We are hoping that those who pledged for 2008 will simply renew their pledges for the first six months of 2009, prorated accordingly. We plan to contact you all in the next couple of months with that request. Again, this is to bring the stewardship drive in line with the church's new fiscal year, which will begin on July 1, 2009.

Pledge cards are available for those who wish to take care of their pledges now. ALL of our printing costs have been donated by a generous church member.

We plan to offer a few brunches, luncheons and dinners in August and September. The targeted guests for those meals will be folks who did not pledge in the last stewardship campaign. We find the main purpose of this shared meal is to educate members/friends on the importance and value of pledging as well as to open a dialogue about how members and friends perceive the church.

Again, if you have any questions, please contact one of us:
Chris Hurlbut
Kim Marfy
Linda Mishler
Kristina Spaude
Marion Yeagler



Kat Holtz shows training video in her SexUUality class at Summer Institute

Kent Church Banner Redesign

We are retiring our honored banner in favor of a new design that will more accurately reflect the UU Church of Kent in 2008 and beyond. With our new vision, mission, and covenant statements as a guide, we are looking for a few good designs that the congregation will ultimately vote on. A more specific call will go out in the next newsletter (September) which will include guidelines for the new banner. In general, banners are rectangles about 3 feet long and 32 inches wide. Our goal is to have a completed design by the end of March to parade at District Assembly, 2009. Banners are traditionally displayed at General Assembly, Summer Institute, and District Assembly each year.

Questions??? Call Kathie Slater.

Wednesday Vespers in September

For those of you who would like to see a mid-week service, beginning in September your wish will be granted. We are going to begin having Vespers on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Both worship experiences will include short readings and music.

The service on the first Wednesday, which in September will be the 3rd, will be a 'Spirited Vespers for all Ages'. It will begin with a shared meal at 5:45 pm, the service at 6:30. This service will be energetic and engaging with active participation from the congregation.

The service on the third Wednesday, which in September will be the 17th, will be a 'Vespers for Renewal & Restoration'. It will begin at 7:00 pm with a social hour following at 7:30. As the title implies, this service will encourage reflection, with a goal of uplifting the spirit.

Watch for more information in the Thread.

Marion Yeagler



Marion Yeagler in Art Space at Summer Institute

Escape to Vermont

September 26 – 28, 2008

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

"Ask Me" Name Tags

You may have noticed a few people with "Ask Me" on their name tags. These are members of our Membership team, and are always happy to answer any questions about the life and work of our church.

Religious Education News

As I write this column, the energy of Summer Institute 2008 - *LIVING OUT LOUD* - still lingers. 87 UU's from Kent attended, while 611 UU's from all over the Ohio Meadville District enjoyed the event. As coordinator of the children's religious education program, I worked with the most amazing children from nursery age thru entering 6th grade. Learning abounded at every turn and included traditional RE settings each morning, as well as bike safety rules, boundaries, and how to get your meals in the college cafeteria. It occurred to me one morning as I watched different classes go off to explore nature that the energy of the Kent church and Summer Institute are similar. Full of excitement, interest, questions and individuals invested in their community!

This summer we have been so blessed to have many teach summer RE. Children learned of bike repair and safety, friendship, and the spirit of imagination. THANK YOU to all who taught, supported teachers, helped children get to their designated RE spot and MORE!

Luke Scott and Sarah Jackson have graduated from high school and are off to college this fall. We wish them well on their new journey.

Thank you to Sarah Jackson, who has been caring (along with RE chair - Laura Teagle) for the smallest members of our congregation.

We are looking for adult individuals with a spirit of play to apply for our Nursery Worker opening. For more information contact Diana VanWinkle. Our Whole Lives will be offered this year for the 7th - 9th grade youth. Parent orientation is on August 16th. Check the church calendar for additional information.

Recently, I asked an elementary aged child what RE is all about. The reply came, "RE is for kids to learn about stuff like different religions, nature, maybe God. It is really for everybody."

Religious Education is for everybody. The church community is experiencing the closing of the summer season and is bounding towards fall. New classes will be taught for all ages. Evening Vespers will appear. OWL will be busy.

Unitarian Universalist principles will be in full swing. Look around our community and identify the 7 principles in action!

In the spirit of joy, *Diana VanWinkle*
Director of Religious Education



Jim Scott and Joel Slater showing off body artwork at Summer Institute

Group Facilitator Training Opportunity

A training opportunity is available for those interested in refining their skills in facilitating small groups of people. The training is focused on techniques for facilitating Small Group Ministry groups but it will also provide useful information for anyone who facilitates small discussion groups. People interested in serving as SGM facilitators beginning this fall or those who might be interested in serving in the future are particularly encouraged to attend. Participation in the training does not obligate one to become an SGM facilitator. The training will be led by Reverend Melissa Carvill-Zeimer and SGM Steering Committee members. It will be held the morning of Saturday, September 20th. Watch for more details in the September newsletter.

Christie Anderson, SGM Steering Committee



Twins Kay Clatterbuck and Brad before a bike ride at Summer Institute

Monthly Finance Report

	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	REVENUES - EXP
JUNE ACTUAL:	\$ 20075	\$14838	\$5237
MONTHLY PLAN:	\$ 9143	\$16406	\$7263
YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL:	\$106063	\$100527	\$5535
YEAR-TO-DATE PLAN:	\$ 97769	\$105819	\$8050

As the above numbers indicate for the General Operating Fund, June actuals were much better than plan. This also brought the year-to-date actuals above plan. Revenues excluding prepayments were higher than May or any other month this year mainly due to continued consistent pledge payments, which did not decrease in June as they did last June and in many prior years. Expenses were \$1600 under plan.

Because of your continued consistent pledge payments, we did not have to use any of the Cash Reserve Account, which we use to weather the summer fluctuations. While we have developed contingency plans, none of these needed to be engaged at this time.

To those of you who donated consistently, and to those

who donated a little extra or moved up their pledge payment, knowing that the church always has summer cash flow problems, we thank you. If your pledge is not up to date, use this month to get it up to date or even a little ahead of your planned pledge contributions. If everyone does this, we may be able to avoid or minimize the use of the contingency plans we have now developed.

By now, you should have received a Contribution Report for the first half of 2008. Please contact me if you did not get one, if you have any questions on the 2008 Report or if you want to discuss ways in which can make it easier for you to make pledge payments on a regular basis.

Bob Erdman, Trustee for Finance



OMD UUA Trustee Needed

Our current UUA Trustee, Pat Solomon, will end her second term on the UUA board in June of 2009. The district is now starting the process of finding her replacement. Trustees must be a legal resident and member of a certified church or fellowship in the district. Pat has described the effective District Trustee as someone who meets these qualifications: Someone who has a broad and deep understanding of Unitarian Universalism, with significant experience as a congregational leader, and district or broader UU leadership experience and/or participation. Also knowledge of the district is important - congregations and geography, programs and initiatives, strengths and opportunities, lay and ministerial leadership - as is a track record of effective group work and leadership in a variety of life settings. Interested parties need to file a statement of intent and a letter of nomination from their congregational president by September 26th. If you are interested in this position, please visit the OMD website at www.ohiomeadville.org and click on "UUA Trustee" or call the district office to learn more.



Noah Kerns enjoying custard at Summer Institute

August Church Events

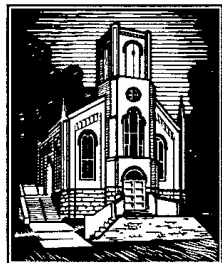
27 4-5:30 Yoga w/ Barb 6:30-7:30 Women's choir 7-9 AA (FH)	28 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice	29 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	30 9:30a Yoga 7-9:00 Summer SGM (EA)	31 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation (FL)	1 6-9:00p- possible wedding rental	2 9:30a-12:30- Couples Group (EA)
3 4-5:30 Yoga w/ Barb 6:30-7:30 Women's choir 7-9 AA (FH)	4 10:15a gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8:00 Clan- Long- meadow	5 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-10 Finance (EA)(p 3)	6 9:30a Yoga 7-9:00 Summer SGM (F)	7 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation (FL) 6-7 Wedding re- hearsal	8 6-9:00 Wedding	9 9:30a-12:30- Couples Group (EA)
10 11:45 Social Justice (EA) (p 8) 6:30-7:30 Women's choir 7-9 AA (FH)	11 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice	12 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	13 9:30a Yoga 7-9:30 Board Mtg. (EA)	14 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation (FL) 7-9 Men's group	15 Newsletter dead- line	16 9:30-12:30 Couples group 12-4 OWL parents' orientation (p 5)
17 6:30-7:30 Women's choir 7-9 AA (FH)	18 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan- Loyaltan	19 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 5:30-7:30 SGM steering com. (EA) 7:00 Challenging Yoga	20 9-1 Staff retreat 9:30a Yoga	21 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation (FL)	22 YAC mtg. - church	23 YAC mtg. - church
24 YAC mtg. - church 6:30-7:30 Women's choir 7-9 AA (FH)	25 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice	26 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9 Living By Heart (FL)	27 9:30a Yoga 7-9 Living By Heart (FL)	28 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation (FL)	29	30 6p-12 Rocky Horror
31 6:30-7:30 Women's choir 7-9 AA (FH)	1 7:00 Tai chi	2 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	3 9:30a Yoga 7-9 Pastoral Asso- ciates (EA)	4 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation (FL)	5 7-8:30 Prenatal Yoga	6

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; N- Nursery
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after July 22

A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at <http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent>
or through a link on our website at www.uukent.org.

What are the little curvy triangle images in the newsletter that sometimes appear between stories?
First correct answer gets a fine chocolate prize ! Email editor with your answer.

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 Gatherings

On Tuesday, August 12 at 7 pm we will meet at the home of Martha Kluth. We will read *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. This is historical fiction about the relationship between Mamah Borthwick Cheney and Frank Lloyd Wright.

On Tuesday, September 9 we will meet at Annie Brightbill's in Navarre OH at 6 pm. Details and directions will be available closer to the date. We will read *Winter Sky* by Nevada Barr. Situated in Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior, this is the 14th in the series of mysteries featuring the adventures of Ranger Anna Pigeon in our national parks.

Out to Lunch Bunch

We will meet after the service at China City in University Plaza every Sunday in August.

Social Justice Committee meeting

We will meet Sunday, August 10 after church at 11:45 in the Annex.

Susan Goekler

Celtic Clan

August -

8/4/08 7pm Long Meadow Care Center Ravenna
8/11/08 7:30 to 8:45 Practice, Sanctuary
8/18/08 7pm to 8:45 Loyalton at Ravenna
8/25/08 7:30 to 8:45 Practice, Sanctuary

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