



The Chalice Flame



The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

December 2008

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15

228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, Ohio 44240
Phone: 330-673-4247
Fax: 330-677-4772
www.kentuu.org
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. through Fri. 9 - 1:30

Religious Ed. Director:
Diana VanWinkle
dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Office hours:
Tuesday by appointment

Music Director:
Hal Walker

Commissioned Lay Leader:
Christie Anderson
christiea@neo.rr.com



Newsletter editor:
Brad Bolton
bbolton@neo.rr.com

Deadline:
The 15th each month

Seek patience
and passion
in equal amounts.

Patience alone
will not build the temple.

Passion alone
will destroy its walls.

~ Maya Angelou ~

And so we come to the waiting time. Will the spirit of Christmas come into our lives this year? Will the returning light of the winter solstice illuminate our own lives? Will the candlelight of the menorah renew our hope and touch our hearts?

We come to this expectant waiting in the midst of a national anxious waiting. How long will this recession last? What is going to happen to our personal finances? Do we need to cut back and where and how?

“Seek patience and passion in equal amounts,” writes the poet. Seek patience in the presence of anxious predictions and fearful reporting. No one really knows what is going to happen with our economy. The best we can do right now when it comes to our money is to be thoughtful, non-reactive, and do our best to make wise decisions given the information that is available. This can be hard to do, especially when we don’t like the options that we have to consider. I know some among us have lost jobs or had their hours at work reduced. Others are unsure how they are going to stretch the already short ends to make them meet. If these are your experiences, I invite you to gather with me on Sunday, December 14 after the second service beginning at 1:00 in the Eldredge Annex. We will meet for about an hour to share stories and consider the possibility of starting a recession blues support group.

“Seek patience and passion in equal amounts,” writes the poet. Seek passion for yourself this holiday season. Look in the places where the spark endures. No matter the circumstances of our lives, there is always the possibility of friendship and affection. In the eyes of the people we love we can find sustenance. Walking in the woods we remember the abundance of life even in the midst of winter. Our services this December are designed to fan the flames of the spirit, to awaken passion and strengthen faith. I hope to see you in church.

Wishing you equal measures of patience and passion,

Melissa

December Sermons

December 7

Welcome the Gift

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

As we approach the time of year when our thoughts turn to giving, we will take time today to consider the art of receiving. How can we cultivate the spirit of joyful receiving in our own lives?

The special collection today is for the Minister's Discretionary Fund. The MDF exists in order that our minister has funds immediately available to assist those who may be in desperate need. The MDF is funded solely by contributions.

December 9, **Tuesday**, 7:00 pm

Blue Christmas Holiday Service

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and musician Hal Walker

The holidays can be a challenging time. Whether you are grieving the death of a loved one, struggling with difficult family dynamics, stressed about finances or wrestling with yourself, you are welcome to this simple service. With poetry, music and meditation we will create a sanctuary for the spirit.

December 14

The Journey of Las Posadas

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

Las Posadas, literally The Inns, is an important part of Christmas celebrations in many Catholic Mexican and Mexican-American communities. This morning we will learn about the journey of Las Posadas and consider what wisdom this tradition might hold for our own lives.

December 17, **Wednesday Vespers**

Winter Solstice

The Winter Solstice will be the focus of our restorative vespers at 7:00 pm. Please join us for music, singing, meditation and readings led by Worship Associate Marion Yeagler. This mid-week service is meant as a respite to calm and sooth. Fellowship and light snacks will follow in the Founder's Lounge at 7:30 pm.

December 21

Festival of Lights

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

The Winter Solstice comes today. Tomorrow is the first night of Chanukah. Thursday is Christmas. This morning we will celebrate each of these winter holidays with a joyous service for all ages.

December 24, **Wednesday**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kristofer Sperry

6:30 pm - A special family friendly service of lessons and carols to welcome the spirit of Christmas into the world.

8:30 pm - A special service of lessons and carols to welcome the spirit of Christmas into the world.

December 28

Remembering 2008

Lois Weir, with many contributors

This is our annual service to remember some of those who have died in the past year and their influence on us, individually and collectively. We will acknowledge their contributions and see how it has raised awareness of how we are living our lives today. Who are we influencing? Toward what end? If you would like to have someone recognized during the service who made a difference in your life, please submit his or her name, along with or sentence or two that summarizes his/her significance to Lois at loisweir@aol.com



Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again - Mary Oliver

Moderator's Message

"Our vitality and passion call us to restore and expand our space to equal the energy of our dreams. As we do, we are better equipped to carry on our historic legacy and embrace our potential for connection, service, programming and outreach." This is the statement of vision approved by the UUCK congregation at our annual meeting in May, 2008.

Last spring, under the leadership of then-Moderator Kathy Kerns, the Board voted to establish a Capital Campaign Task Force (CCTF) to build on earlier discussions and to respond to the vision statement by developing broad goals for a future capital campaign. The CCTF was a short term committee consisting of the following members: Elaine Bowen (chair), John Brannan, Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Bill Eldredge, Jane Krimmer, Randal Leeson (secretary), and Rod Mishler (representing the Master Plan Committee). I am pleased to announce that the CCTF has completed their work and presented their report to the Board at our November meeting. On behalf of the entire Board I want to thank the members of the CCTF for the time and careful study they devoted to answering the charge from the Board and for preparing a thorough, well-written report. I want to share with you a few highlights of the report:

- There are multiple possible building projects that could be proposed, ranging from expanding our existing build-



**Yes you can . . .
have this much fun at Summer Institute**

Summer Institute - It's an Institution

The Summer Institute Planning Committee is pleased to announce that the 30th annual Summer Institute will be held July 12-18, 2009 at Kenyon College in Gambier, OH. Theme speaker is Thandeka, Senior Research Professor at Meadville Lombard Theological School; President of the Center for Community Values and affiliated Minster at the UU Church of Rockford, IL. She is the author of several books, including "Learning to Be White: Race, Money and "God in America". Details will be available throughout the year and registration will open by early May. Plan to join us there now!

ing to building a new structure adjacent to the current building; much further research and discussion is needed before determining which option to pursue.

- Acquisition of additional adjacent property will be essential for any expansion project, to meet parking and/or construction needs.
- It is highly recommended that UUA Congregational Stewardship Services be used to conduct a feasibility study prior to launching any capital campaign.

Both the CCTF and the Board recognize that fulfilling our vision to restore and expand our space will be a long-term process. A reasonable goal may be to aim for completion of the process in time for the 150th anniversary of the founding of our church, which will be in 2015. The Board has begun discussion to determine next steps, and I will keep you informed as those decisions are made over the next several months.

In the meantime, please join me in expressing appreciation to all of the members of the Capital Campaign Task Force for their dedicated and thorough work.

In shared commitment to our vision,
Rhonda Richardson, Moderator

Social Justice Committee meeting - Sunday Dec 7 after 2nd service in the annex.

Election Night Dinner Wins in Landslide

The Election Night Dinner was a huge success!

On Nov 4, the Social Justice Committee revived a tradition of the UU Church of Kent and hosted an election night dinner open to the community. Thanks to Sally Burnell and Caroline Arnold, the Record Courier ran a piece on the event that day. Over 60 people, including many non-members, joined the festivities – which included a delicious dinner with pasta prepared by Bill and Elaine Bowen and salads, breads, desserts, and beverages provided by those who came. After dinner, we moved to the sanctuary where we projected live coverage onto a large screen using Bob Erdman's computer and the LCD projector. Although not intended as a fund raiser, the event netted over \$200, which the Social Justice Committee has donated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Both Sides of the Family Comes to Kent!

Thanks to the generosity of the Cyrus Eaton Foundation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent will be hosting the play *Both Sides of the Family* in our sanctuary on Saturday, December 20 at 4:00. The performance will be followed by a reception and discussion.

This funny, spiritual and moving journey of interfaith parenting, childhood and marriage had its critically acclaimed debut in January, 2007. "She" is raising a Jewish daughter for her Jewish husband, although she is not interested in converting. "He" is the child of two Jewish parents and the father of two families, one Jewish and one Christian. The play is suitable for all ages, though older children may find it more engaging.

Presented by Charenton Theater, *Both Sides of the Family* features Maryann Elder Goldstein, author and actor, Jeffrey Glover, contributing writer and actor and is directed and co-conceived by Jacqi Lowey, Charenton's artistic director.

The performance is free and open to the public. Bring your friends!



Scene from *Both Sides of the Family*

The "SOUP"ER BOWL is coming

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009 is both the NFL Super Bowl and the UUCK annual "Soup"er Bowl. It is a Sunday dedicated to the collection of cans - hearty soups, chili, stew, ravioli/pasta - all to be donated to Kent Social Services for their food pantry. This year's goal is at least 125 cans and \$100 (cash and coin) in the empty soup pot.

Please help Team UUCK score against hunger in Kent & Portage County!

More information to follow in January from Coach Bowen.

Something New Is in the Works

With an eye toward improving communications within our church, we will be instituting a weekly e-mailed update. Beginning in January, you'll be receiving this update each Wednesday or Thursday with reminders of important upcoming events and other announcements. Because we are committed to keeping the update brief and focused on church events, our secretary will organize, edit and layout the content just as she does for our weekly Thread from the Web. If you have an item you would like to contribute to the update, she will need to receive it by Tuesday evening at midnight for inclusion in that week's update.

How do you get on this list? If we have an email address on record for you in our on-line membership software, we'll use that email address to send you our weekly update. If you decide that you would rather not receive the weekly emailed update, you will be able to opt out. The weekly update distribution list will be a separate list from the newsletter "subscriptions" so you will continue to receive the Chalice Flame unless you specifically unsubscribe from the newsletter list.

This new electronic publication does not yet have a name – and this is where you can help. After having rejected such names as *e-nUUs* and *The Latest ScUUp* as hopelessly corny, we've decided that there have to be several clever people in our congregation who have much better ideas. Please send your inspired suggestions to the church office at uukent@sbcglobal.net. Deadline is December 15 and put "e-nUUs" in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you!

Judy Brannan



Past Sermons Available for Listening

You can listen to past sermons in three ways.

Go to our church website - <http://www.kentuu.org/> and click on "Podcast link" on the right side. Scroll down to the sermon you want and click on "Play Now" to listen. To save the sermon as an mp3 file which you can transfer to your iPod, right-click on "Play Now" and choose "Save Link As". Our website provides only the sermon and other original content.

To hear the complete sermon, CDs are available in the church library in a black folder labeled "Recordings of Services". There is a sign-out sheet in the folder.

Brad Bolton

Build Your Own Theology Part One

BYOT means Building Your Own Theology and it is a program conducted within a community context in which individuals reflect on their own religious experiences and create their own credos.

The goals for participants include 1) to determine their values and beliefs about God/god or ultimate reality, human nature, ethics and the meaning/purpose of life, 2) to discover what other UUs believe about the great religious questions, 3) to articulate their beliefs in credo statements and 4) to meet the challenge of building their own theology.

The program consists of 10 sessions of 2 to 2 1/2 hours every 2 weeks facilitated by 2 co-leaders, Elaine Bowen and Randi Palmer. Class size is limited to 10 to allow adequate time for sharing and small group discussion. We would like to begin in January in order to be finished by May and are tentatively planning Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9 pm at the church or annex. There is a book, available for order from the UUA Bookstore, that is needed for the class; if you are unable to purchase it, arrangements can be made for session copies prior to classes. Please note: there is reading and some "homework" ~ approximately 1 hour for each session.

If you are willing and able to make the time and energy commitment, I need to hear from you by December 14. Preference will be given to those who have never taken the course before. If you'd like to sign up, or if you have questions, please contact Elaine Bowen.

If there is overwhelming response, we will consider adding another session!



Holly Near and John McCutcheon at
"Sing Out the Vote" Concert

Notice of Congregational Voting Meeting

There will be a congregational voting meeting on **Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary, following the second service. The agenda items are:

- Approval of minutes from the May 11, 2008 meeting
- Authorizing expenditure from the capital account
- Voting on the January-June 2009 budget

(This agenda has been updated since the announcement in last month's newsletter.)

A quorum of 1/4 of active members is needed, so please mark your calendar and plan to attend. An information and discussion meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 7:15 p.m. at which time copies of the May 11 minutes, information about the proposed capital account expenditure and the proposed January-June 2009 budget will be distributed. Please contact the church office (330-673-4247 or uukent@sbcglobal.net) at least one week in advance to reserve child care.

If you are unavoidably prevented from attending the December 7 voting meeting you may contact the Moderator, Rhonda Richardson, for instructions for submitting an absentee ballot. Per Article IV, Section 5 of our church bylaws, "only active members who provide a written statement to the Moderator prior to the meeting stating that they are unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting may submit an absentee ballot. Such ballot must present the member's position clearly enough that the Moderator can interpret the member's intent at the time of the vote. Absentee ballots are not counted in determining a quorum. Before discussing or acting on an issue, the Moderator shall announce the number of absentee ballots received and accepted."

Library News

A book we recently acquired is *How to Bury a Goldfish ... and 113 Other Family Rituals for Everyday Life* by Virginia E. Lang and Louise B. Nayer.

A few years ago author Lang stood poised over the toilet, a goldfish in hand. On the verge of flushing her young daughter's first pet, she was stopped by the sorrow in the girl's eyes. Instead mother and daughter performed an impromptu ceremony in the garden placing a wildflower on the gravesite and speaking from the heart on the loss of a friend.

Later the coauthors were struck again by how many of us have forgotten the ceremonies and traditions that help us mark the memorable moments in our lives. And thus *How to Bury a Goldfish* was born.

Martha Kluth

Financial Corner

October and 2008 Year-to-date Financials for General Fund:

	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	REVENUES-EXP
OCT. ACTUALS:	\$12660	\$15295	-\$2635
MONTHLY PLAN:	\$16108	\$15047	+\$1061
OCT.-TO-DATE ACTUAL:	\$155214	\$161350	-\$6136
OCT.-TO-DATE PLAN:	\$155498	\$166987	\$11489

Well, October Revenues were far below plan and Expenditures were slightly above plan. Presumably this significant shortfall is mainly a result of the economy that is now impacting us where we live. The Finance Committee and the Board are right now assessing the situation and trying to determine how badly the recession will impact church finances. You will hear the results of this in the form of the proposed budget for 2009, to be discussed at an information meeting Dec. 3 and voted on Dec. 7.

The big uncertainty in these budget plans is what will our pledge income really be? We understand that some people have lost jobs, have large medical bills etc. that were not planned when they pledged. Others may be able to give a little more than they planned, understanding that this is a rough time for the church economically. One thing that would help in our planning is to let me know if you feel your pledge payments for 2008 will be different than the pledge you made, as indicated on the Contribution Reports recently sent to you. This will really help us develop realistic plans and budgets.

Some have already paid their entire 2008 pledge - THANKS! Others have not paid anything on their pledge. Does this mean it will all come in during December? Or that your situation has changed? We can guess, but our



Celebs at the church auction

plans will be much stronger if you simply tell us what your latest plans are. Contact me on an individual basis - you can have a big impact on our plans, just by keeping us up to date.

A bright spot in the picture is our fund-raising activities: The Service Auction was budgeted to raise \$13,000 AND DID! Thanks to Beth Wills, Sandy Bowers and Colleen Norris who led the effort and the dozens of people who helped with the food and donated items, AND all the buyers!

Other fund-raising activities have produced more revenues than planned: \$3500 vs. a \$2950 budget.

- Celtic Clan performances brought in \$1100 so far this year! Thanks to Trish and the group.
- Food events and Farmer's Market brought in \$869 this year.
- Pancake breakfasts bring in over \$100 each month and were not in the original plan.
- Concerts and plays have brought in \$955 over and above service auction revenues.
- Various sales, workshops and other fund raisers brought in over \$500.

Sandy Bowers, co-chair of Fund Raising says one of the neatest things is the ideas that people bring in for fundraisers. We need the ideas and the fund-raising activities are a lot of fun to participate in.

Revenue from the Acme bucks program, which costs the users of the grocery cards nothing extra, and provides the church with 5% income on each Acme Bucks purchase, will bring in about \$1400 this year...not bad for a \$1900 investment! How many other investments return 74% annually? Thanks to Esther Duncan, and Pat Pownall, who consistently give up their coffee hour to sell Acme Bucks, and to Christie Anderson who works with them.

Bob Erdman, Trustee for Finance

December Church Events

30 10:30 Pancake Bkfst. 12:15 Pancake Bkfst. 1-2:30 Pizza Party 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	1 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice F	2 Thread/Web deadline 12-4:00 Sanctuary in use 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9:00 Living By Heart	3 9:30a Yoga 7:15-9:15 Congregation mtg. S 7:45-10 COM EA	4 10:15a Yoga 12-4:00 Sanctuary in use 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation FL 7:15-9:15 OWL	5 12-4:00 Sanctuary in use 5-7:00 wedding rehearsal S	6 12-6:00 Shaffer wedding S
7 12:30-1:30 Congregation vote p 5 1-3:00 Social Justice EA 4-6:00 Hogwarts mtg. EA 6:30-7:30 Adult choir 7-9 AA FH	8 10:15a gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8:00 Clan Tower 43	9 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-8:00 Blue Christmas service	10 9:30a Yoga 7-9:30 Board Mtg. EA	11 9-11a Annex in use 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation FL 7-9 Men's Group EA 7:15 OWL	12	13
14 1-3:00 Recesson Blues EA 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	15 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice	16 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	17 9:30a Yoga 7-7:30 Vespers S 7:30 Vespers Social time	18 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation FL 7:15 OWL	19	20 2-7:00 Church in use 4-7:00 <u>Both Sides of Family</u> p 4
21 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	22 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan Loyalt-ton	23 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9:00 Living By Heart	24 9:30a Yoga 7-9:00 Living By Heart 6:30 Family Christmas service S 8:30 Christmas Service S	25 6-6:45 Meditation Group	26	27
28 10:30 Pancake Bkfst. 12:15 Pancake Bkfst. 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	29 10:15 am gentle Yoga 1-5:00 Sanctuary in use 5:15 gentle Yoga	30 Thread/Web deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	31 9:30a Yoga	1 6-6:45 Meditation FL	2	3

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 November 21

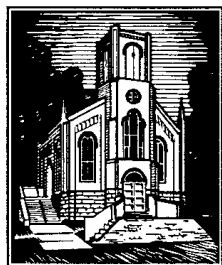
A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at <http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent>
 or through a link on our website at www.uukent.org.

Spirited Vespers for All Ages
 (first Wednesday) are on
 sabbatical in December



Kristofer Sperry and Erica

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*

Celtic Clan

12/1/08 7:30pm	Practice in sanctuary
12/8/08 7pm	Tower 43, Kent
12/15/08 7:30pm	Practice in sanctuary
12/22/08 7pm	Loyalton of Ravenna
12/29/08	No practice

Book Club Gatherings

We will meet on Tuesday, December 9 at 7 pm at the home of Pat Pownall. It is in the first building to your right as you drive into the apartment complex. We will read *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides. This novel spans three generations and two continents and is the story of the life of a transgender man.

On Tuesday January 13 at 7 pm we will meet at the Kluth Gallery, 300 N. Water St., Suite I (across from Sorboro's pizza). Hostess is Martha Kluth. We will share a book we have read over the holidays.

All who enjoy reading are welcome at our book group meetings.

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



Out To Lunch Bunch

China City – except when pancake breakfast or other church lunch is held after church. Come join us after second service for food and fun.