

The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church

May 2009

Sunday Services 9:30 and 11:15

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> Newsletter editor: Brad Bolton bbolton@neo.rr.com Deadline: The 15th each month

The classes are done, the paperwork is turned in and the home study is complete. We have evacuation plans posted on each floor, a fire extinguisher hanging by the back door and a new shelf in the basement for the laundry detergent and the bleach. Our spare bedroom is yellow now and furnished with two cribs – one which has cradled many Carvill babies and one that converts to a bed for a toddler. In the attic we have the two strollers and booster seats my nieces left behind along with a rear facing infant car seat and an adjustable car seat for an older child. With these things in place, we now qualify as ready and soon we will be licensed to be foster and adoptive parents by Summit County Children's Services.

Before long, maybe this summer, the call will come. Our social worker will ask us if we are willing to be foster parents for We cannot know if the call will be about one child or two, boys or girls, infants or toddlers or preschool aged children. We won't be able to predict exactly how the baby will react to separation from his birth parent or every way in which the toddler will act out the realities of abuse or neglect she has been experiencing in her birth family. Chances are good we will not know how long to expect that child or those children to stay in our home. But we will know this – for a month or a lifetime, that child will need nurture. For a year or forever those children will need love. And for a time the privilege of loving and nurturing will be ours. This is what I have been reminding myself when I start to feel overwhelmed by the uncertain future that lies before us.

The truth is, of course, that the future is always uncertain. I was talking to a friend recently who works as a journalist for a big city newspaper. She has spent the last decade of her life working her way up in the industry. And now the industry is in trouble. Our culture has changed and the newspaper industry is still trying to figure out how to change with it and remain profitable. My friend doesn't know if she'll still have a job next year, nor what else she would do if she couldn't find work as a reporter. But she does know this – for now she is happily employed in a job that fills her life with satisfaction and a sense of purpose. Tomorrow will come tomorrow, whether or not she worries about it today.

And so it is for each of us. Tomorrow will come tomorrow. We can plan and organize for the future, but we cannot control what the future will bring. Our only true dwelling place is here in this moment. May we live it whole.

In faith,

Meliosa

Another Opportunity in Ministry

Are you a good listener? Is compassion one of your gifts? Would you like to find a new way to serve our church? If you answered yes to all of these questions, I invite you to consider becoming a member of our Loving Hearts pastoral associates team. New team members will begin in the fall with a weekend training in the ministry of presence. For more information and an application, please contact our minister.

Chalice Flame If dandelions were hard to grow, they would be most welcome on any lawn- Mason

May Sermons

3 May 2009 Asking the Right Questions

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

The questions we ask always influence the kinds of answers we get. This morning we will consider how the words we use (and the ones we don't) shape our conversations about faith.

Cub Scouts Alan Kerns and Gavin VanWinkle-Bright will be receiving their certificates and emblems for completing the Unitarian Universalist Love and Help program during the first service today.

6 May 7:00 pm Vespers Life's Music Kristofer Sperry Meditation on the music of our lives.

10 May 2009Mothers of PeaceRev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Dani BealeLast year's sermon on Mother's Day was entitled Mothers of War. This year we celebrate peacemaking and the Mothersof Peace.

17 May Walden's Benediction

Guest speaker Jeremy Elliott

Henry David Thoreau challenged us to "live life deliberately!" What does it mean to live a life of great meaning and power? What exactly are we supposed to do? This Sunday we look to the wisdom prophets of liberal religion to learn how we might live extraordinary lives. We will consider the lives of Thoreau, Gandhi and King and their contributions to our world. Can our contributions be equally important?

Jeremy Elliott is a chaplain resident at the Cleveland Clinic and a spiritual counselor at the Clinic's Center for Integrative Medicine. He is a UU minister in preliminary fellowship with the UUA. He served as the intern minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and as the Killam Fellow at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland. He attended Starr King School for the Ministry, Case Western Reserve University, and Baldwin-Wallace College.

24 May Consider Your Legacy

Lori McGee and worship Associate Elaine Bowen

Having recently read "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch, I began to consider my own legacy to my family, friends, and community. In this service we will explore the idea of our own legacy as individuals and as UUs.

31 May 2009

Gender and Church

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Christie Anderson

Recently there has been a spate of new churches opening specifically for men. These churches are responding to a belief by some that religion has become feminized. This morning we will explore gender and church.



Andrea Bussinger and Helena Esparza singing for a church service

Moderator's Message

t our retreat last August, the 2008-09 Board established several goals for the year. A central one of these was to study policy governance with an eye toward deciding whether it might increase Board efficiency and move us toward a stronger focus on mission and vision. Over the past eight months, our study has included a two-hour video of John Carver on Policy Governance, a congregational governance webinar, and multiple full Board discussions of policy governance principles and concepts. In addition, I attended a workshop on policy governance at District Assembly where I had a chance to ask questions and speak with other lay leaders whose churches have recently adopted policy governance. Based on this study, the Board has decided to issue a recommendation to the 2009-2010 Board that they begin taking steps to adopt policy governance at UUCK. This recommendation is also incorporated into the draft strategic plan that the Board will be considering for adoption at the May Board meeting.

Policy governance allows a Board to focus on the long view (mission and vision). Board duties under policy governance begin with writing Ends statements which define the purpose of the organization (whom do we serve, for what reason, at what cost?). The Ends statements reflect our mission and vision. The Board then writes policies that delegate appropriate authority and responsibility to staff (both paid and volunteer) to determine and implement the means to achieve those ends within limits established by the Board. Thus, policy governance creates a system of accountability, frees staff (paid and volunteer) to be creative in programming, removes the Board from micromanaging, and transfers power from the congregation to the Board and from the Board to an executive team (in the church setting this team typically consists of the Minister, DRE and one or two others). Board attention can then be devoted to monitoring whether the Ends are met (i.e., are we living into our mission and vision), continually re-exploring the Ends, and engaging in ongoing conversation with the congregation about choices we need to make to achieve the desired Ends.

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Making a transition to policy governance is a process that will extend over several years. In our case, it will require significant revision of our by-laws. Lay leaders from other UU churches have uniformly told me, based on their experiences, that the process is well worth working through. The current UUCK Board believes that policy governance holds much promise for our beloved church and is pleased to recommend to the incoming Board this ultimately transformative change in governance.

In faith and leadership, Rhonda Richardson, Moderator



Jennifer Dominguez, previous long-time member of the church, made a surprise appearance last month. Jennifer lives in New York City, and her mother Marta resides in Florida.

Small Group Ministry for the Summer

Would you like to try out Small Group Ministry and you just can't wait until the fall? If there is enough interest, we will offer summer SGM again. Currently, 3 people have expressed interest and we need at least 6-8 people per session for it to be effective.

Please let me hear from you if you are interested in either a weeknight session (probably Wed. but could be Tues. or Thurs.) or a Saturday AM session. The program would be 6 - 2 hour sessions and run from mid to late June through early August. This is not a drop-in program; we would like a commitment of attendance at least 4 of the 6 sessions for continuity and bonding within the group.

Drop Elaine Bowen an e-mail to express your interest or with any questions. More information to follow in the June newsletter and in the weekly Thread & e-nUUs.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 12:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary, following the second service. The agenda items are:

Approval of minutes from the December 7, 2008 voting meeting

Voting on the 2009-2010 budget Elections

A quorum of ¼ of active members is needed, so please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Child care will be provided.

An information and discussion meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m**. at which time copies of the December 7 minutes, the proposed 2009-2010 budget, and the slate of nominees will be distributed. Please contact the church office (330-673-4247 or <u>uukent@sbcglobal.net</u>) at least one week in advance to reserve child care for this information and discussion meeting.

If you are unavoidably prevented from attending the May 31 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."

Rhonda Richardson, Moderator



Kent African Drum Ensemble at church Healing Concert



The Easter Bunny made a stealthy appearance at church for Easter. The eggper-child ratio was one of the highest in the area.

Annual Talent Show

Singers, dancers, music players, Jugglers, funny ones, poetry sayers – Small ones big ones – old and young Come on out and have some fun!

SATURDAY MAY 16, 2009 Tickets go on sale Sunday MAY 3 Adults: \$5.00 Children under 10 - no charge

Entertainers: Get your application from: Saunis Parsons or Linda Mishler or go to the website-<u>www.kentuu.org/</u> Please notify us ASAP if you need babysitting

New UUCK office holders

After a successful search, the Nominating Committee is proud to present its slate of incoming office holders.

- Rod Mishler, after serving as Assistant Moderator position will move into the Moderator position in his second year.
- Kristofer Sperry Assistant Moderator, moving into the position of Moderator in the next year.

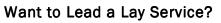
Kathy Wilen - Board Secretary, two years.

- Gene Weninnger Board Treasurer, serving 2 years. Ed Stolish - Trustee for Building and Grounds, 2 years.
- Vivian Sandlund Trustee for Outreach to the Wider World, for 2 years.
- Don Easterling trustee for Programming, 2 year term. Eric van Baars and Beth Kuemerle - Financial Secretaries.
- Bailey Clegg Endowment Committee member, serving 3 years.

These positions are up for election at the church annual meeting May 31, 2009.

The 5 future Nominating Committee members serve for 1 year and are: Tracy Parsons, Bonny Esparza, Liz Erickson, Trish McLoughlin, chaired by Rhonda Richardson.

Submitted by the current Nominating Committee: Bev Cole, Martha Kluth, Ted Voneida, Janee Krimmer, Lynn Kindsvatter



If you are interested in planning a lay led service, please pick up a form from the pamphlet rack in Founders' Lounge. The Sunday Program Committee meets on May 6, and we would like to have your ideas before that date. Contact Christie Anderson or Susan Goekler with any questions.



Suhan Bello played an Easter concert at church that was highly praised.



Dinner and a Movie

The next dinner will be Friday, May 22 at 7:00. The featured film will be "Pirates of the Caribbean" with a spaghetti dinner. Dinner is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$15 per family. The movie begins at 7:30 and is no charge.

Pancakes

Save the date! The next pancake breakfast will be May 31st after each service. The featured flavor will be orange. Traditional flavors will be available as well.

Financial Corner

Figure 1 is where we stand half-way through the 2009 [6-month] budget: Overall, we are within a few hundred dollars of plan. Revenues are below plan: About \$46,500 vs. \$48,500 plan. Expenditures are below plan less than that: Roughly \$50,400 vs. \$51,700 plan. If pledge payments are close to plan for this quarter and we continue to spend less than plan, we expect to end this fiscal period close to plan. We will know the final number late in July. If the checkbook balance beginning July 1 is over \$6000, we have agreed that the overage will be donated to OMD and UUA.

The budgeting process for fiscal 2010 [July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010] will start with the sum of all of our pledges for 2010, based on the stewardship campaign that just ended. This is the sum of each pledge group's estimate of what they expect to give during the fiscal year. As of April 15, this is about \$170,000. If this does not include your pledge, please contact me. Hopefully we will meet our goal by the April 19 service. {This was written April 16.}

This amount is compared to the submitted budget requests, from staff, all committees, and estimates of our expenses. Each year, the fair compensation guidelines from UUA increase for staff. So do many of our expenses, including our cost per member for UUA and OMD dues, which now total \$76. And in 2010, we will not be able to make principal payments on the loan from the Capital Fund—it is now below \$3000, and may be needed for a building emergency.

When the expenses for fiscal 2010 are added up and our other sources of revenue considered, we need \$203,000 in pledge revenues in order to pay our staff fair compensation, increase the DRE time to a more realistic number given her responsibilities, pay our fair share of OMD and UUA dues, and fund the committee requests so they can make progress toward our mission and vision. The degree to which we can fill these requests and do these important things is directly related to the amount of our estimated pledge revenues.

One of the difficult parts of this planning process is that the 2010 budget is prepared by early May, published for the congregation to vote on the end of May, then the committees and staff can plan the specifics of their programs based the final budget. But the final budget includes a number for our beginning bank balance, expected to be \$6000. This number is not really known until late July. This leads us to prioritize uses of "excess" money over this \$6000, and "cuts" in the approved budget, if we do not have the \$6000 expected. We will present these priorities for discussion at the May 30 information meeting and the budget will be voted on at the congregational May 31 meeting, which requires a quorum. Hope to see you at these meetings.

We really want to accomplish the goals that committees, staff and congregation have in mind for progress toward our mission and vision in fiscal 2010. The reality is that all the leadership and congregation can do is plan 2010 based on the plans of each pledge group, from the stewardship campaign, making the best use of whatever money we have from this to achieve our goals.

We appreciate your contributions and your cooperation in helping us plan 2010 by filling out your pledge card. We will understand if your situation changes, including our commitment to return any 2010 pledge payments should you lose your job during fiscal 2010. If you review the 2010 budget plans and you feel that you can contribute more, either to the general fund or a specific activity that you feel is inadequately funded, that would be wonderful. Thank you for your contributions.

Bob Erdman, Trustee for Finance



Professor Dazzleswift surrounded by adoring kids at Hogwarts

Hogwarts Kent Branch Summer Session

Mark you calendars! The summer session of Hogwarts is scheduled for June 25-28. Students ages are: children entering kindergarten through age 12. Those older are working Prefects or assistant Professors. The theme for this session is "Hope has wings."

This session will again be packed with a variety of classes, quidditch, and other interesting and fun opportunities. For more information about the program or to get on the mailing list, go to the website at <u>www.kenthogwarts.org</u> or contact Joe at 330-206-1873, Sandy at 330-678-6673 or registration@kenthogwarts.org with questions.

Hogwarts Volunteer Opportunity

Hogwarts is looking for creative and crafty people to make important items such as a whomping willow and snargaluff pods. Don't know what those are? Don't worry, you can get all the information you need. All you need to have is a desire to give children a magical time. Contact Joe or Sandy with questions.



Tracy Parsons retrieves a purple egg (seen in transit) for a young egg hunter. It's hard to believe the Easter Bunny got that egg up so high.

DRE Corner – Building Community

Each Sunday the 3, 4, & 5th grade class begin their morning at 9:30 am by worshipping in the sanctuary. They leave at the end of the Doxology to share personal joys & concerns and participate in an offering to aid in the support of their church. Joys and concerns are shared with each other as they pick up a smooth stone and drop it in a bowl containing water. The rock, the water, and the splash combine to make tangible the words shared with the **community** of peers.

As the time for joys and concerns comes to an end the conversation moves to the larger church **community**. What is the purpose of an offering? How does an offering affect our church **community**? Answers include electricity for the church, buying snacks for coffee hour and more. An offering plate is passed around for the offering and the children go to their classroom to experience the Holidays and Holy Days curriculum. Please talk with your child about the importance of an offering and stewardship. They are excited to be active members in their church **community**.

Another way in which our children and youth celebrate being part of the UUCK community is through the celebration of birthdays. The Children and Youth Religious Education Registration Forms (aka the green forms) have been used to create a list of birthdays occurring each month. Each month the child's FIRST NAME and last initial will be shared in the DRE column along with the date of their birthday. Year of birth will not be shared. If YOU DO NOT WISH for your child's birthday to be shared, contact the DRE by May 10th. What an amazing dedicated group of children, youth, teachers and RE committee members are as they work each week to contribute, strengthen and build a vibrant religious education community. Our children and youth have many gifts to offer each other and our community as a whole. They are excited to be part of the community.

Blessings, *Diana Van Winkle* Director of Religious Education

Library News

Lynn Kindsvatter, chair of the Library Task Force, wants everyone to understand that the library database is on the church website. Through the database you can search for a book of interest by category.

Featured from the church library this month is <u>Leader-ship in Congregations</u> edited by Richard Bass. It was published by the Alban Institute in 2007. It contains the collective wisdom of over 10 years of Alban research on what it means to be a leader in a congregation, how our perceptions of leadership are changing, and exciting new directions for leadership in the future.

Our Website - Super Vision

Our own UUCK website is one of our best promotional and informative resources for our church. Without it, we would not know about all the important activities within our church and Sunday programming. For the last few years, Mike Plishka has been the magician behind our website maintenance. We are grateful for his hard work and dedication as he helps Julie Swango make her transition in becoming our new website manager in May. Please welcome Julie as she brings her computer talents to our church link. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our website, feel free to contact Julie.



Vonn and Cordelia Wheatley with an eggstreme number of eggs found at Easter.

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



Hey Hey! Hey Yo! Garlic Mustard's Got to Go!

Kent River Day Garlic Mustard Pull Saturday, May 16 9:00am to 1:00pm

Meet at Family and Community Services' parking lot, 143 Gougler Avenue, and rid our river of the invasive garlic mustard plant! Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

Out To Lunch Bunch

We meet at China City after second service for food and fun. We will not meet when pancake breakfast or other church lunch is held after church.

Chalice Flame If dandelions were hard to grow, they would be most welcome on any lawn- Mason

May Church Events

26 10:30 Pancake Bkfst FH 12:15 Pancake Bkfst 12:35 Vespers mtg. 4-5:30 Easy Yoga 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	27 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan Long- meadow	28 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7:00 Living By Heart FL	29 9:30a Yoga 7-8:00 Pilates <i>FH</i>)	30 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>RE</i> 7:15 OWL 7:30 Yoga	1	2 12-1:00 OWL setup 1:00p- 9:00a OWL overnight
3 Til 9:00 a OWL overnight 1-3:00 Hogwarts mtg. <i>EA</i> 2:00 Farmer Market mtg. <i>S</i> 4-5:30 Easy Yoga 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	4 10:15a gentle Yoga 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan Stow Glen	5 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	6 9:30a Yoga 5:30 Liv By Heart <i>RE</i> 6:30 BYOT <i>S</i> 7:00 Pilates <i>FH</i> 7:00 Vespers	7 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>RE</i> 6:30 Board mtg. <i>EA</i> 7:30 Yoga	8	9 1-3:00 Church spring cleaning
10 4:00 Easy yoga 6:30-7:30 Adult choir 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	11 10:15a gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice	12 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	13 9:30a Yoga 7:00 Pilates <i>FH</i> 7-9:30 OML <i>EA</i>	14 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>RE</i> 7:00 Men's group <i>EA</i> 7:30 Yoga	15 Newsletter dead- line 7:30 Social Justice Movie <i>S</i>	16 9-1:00 Garlic Pull p8 9-12:00 New UU class FH Talent Show p4 3-12 a Sanctuary in use 6-12 a Fessenden in use
17 4-5:30 Easy Yoga 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	18 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan Kent Health Care	19 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	20 9:30a Yoga 6:30 BYOT S	21 5:30 Yoga 6-9:00 Marshall memo- rial service 6:00 Meditation <i>RE</i> 7:30 Yoga	22 6:00 Dinner/ movie setup FH 7-11:00 Dinner/ movie FH p5	23 11:00 Healing concert setup S 1-5:00 Healing concert S
24 4-5:30 Easy Yoga 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	25 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi	26 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 9-2:00 OMD Life- span mtg. 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7:00 Liv by Heart FL	27 9:30a Yoga	28 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>RE</i> 7:30 Yoga	29	30 7-9:00 Congrega- tion info mtg. <i>S</i>
31 10:30 Pancake bkfst <i>p5</i> 12:15 Pancakes 2nd service <i>p5</i> 12:30 Congregation vote <i>S p4</i> 4:00 Yoga 6:30 Adult Choir <i>S</i> 7-9:00 AA <i>FH</i>	1 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi	2 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	3 9:30 Yoga	4 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>RE</i> 7:30 Yoga	5 7-3:00 a Sanctuary rental	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 April 21

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

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



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Celtic Clan

5/4/09 7pm Stow Glenn Assisted Living 5/11/09 7:30 Practice at Christie's 5/18/09 7 pm Kent Health Care Center 5/25/09 No practice



Book Group News

The book group will meet on Tuesday, May 12 at 7 pm at the home of Betty Kendrick. Our selection will be People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks, the Pulitzer Prizewinning author of March. This is an intricate, ambitious novel that traces the journey of a rare illuminated Hebrew manuscript from *convivencia* Spain to the ruins of Sarajevo, from the Silver Age of Venice to the sunburned rock faces of northern Australia.

Sermons and Board Minutes Available

Some printouts 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.