



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



July 2009

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15

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Kent, Ohio 44240
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Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

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Office hours:
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Deadline:

The 15th each month

The time has come for those who garden to get the last of the seedlings into the ground. The seedlings are the little plants that have grown up indoors or in green houses where the temperature and moisture and light can be monitored and controlled. They are ready now to be moved outside where they can take root in the soil. With a good watering and a little extra fertilizer to help with the transition, the seedlings will soon be flourishing.

This summer several of us in the church are going to be considering ways we can transplant or maybe just give a little extra attention and nurture to some of our ministries to help them flourish. You will be seeing, if you haven't already, a survey from the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee. This program has gotten off to a great start, but we are realizing it is time to make a few changes to make it even better. One of those changes will be a new name (new groups will be called Chalice Circles) and another will be the addition of affinity groups (groups that gather around a common theme or identity). If you haven't yet taken the survey, please look for it in the e-nuus in early July so we can find out what additions you might like to see next fall.

We will also be focusing this summer on expanding our adult religious exploration opportunities. Many of you have taken advantage of the classes offered on Sunday mornings and the occasional curriculum based classes we have offered in the last few years like Building Your Own Theology. We are hoping to renew this ministry to be sure that we always have a number of evening adult religious exploration courses being offered in addition to the wonderful classes on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in leading a class sometime next year, please let me know what you are thinking you would like to offer. And if there is a class you'd really like to take, likewise let me know and we'll see if we can add it to the schedule.

Another focus will be the expansion of our social justice ministry opportunities. Our Social Justice Committee has done an amazing job providing opportunities for us to engage in a variety of important and timely actions. They routinely invite us to witness to our faith, advocate for change, learn about issues and raise money for important causes. To their good work we hope to add a congregation-wide social justice project. The idea is to select one issue or concern as a congregation and devote attention to that issue or concern over a period of time. This will enable us to go deep and to arrange for coordinated learning and justice making opportunities. We are putting together a small team to work on introducing this exciting new initiative to the congregation. Let me know if you'd like to be part of the planning process.

This is some of the congregational gardening I'll be working on over the summer. I know several other leaders in the congregation will be working on refreshing and renewing the programs they take a lead on as well. Here is to the good growing happening at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent!

In faith,

Melissa

July Sermons

5 July

In Search of Truth and Meaning: A Trixie Belden Mystery

Saul Flanner and Kathy Walker

Trixie Belden is a fictional girl detective, similar to Nancy Drew, but without the convertible. Trixie is "sturdy" with unruly curls, annoying brothers, a best friend named Honey, and too many chores. She's also very, very curious. I met Trixie in the third grade. This service is about what I learned from her. It's about seeking out mysteries, facing your fears, and finding truth and meaning in the most surprising places. Saul and I will draw on our love of reading during our respective childhoods to consider what Trixie and other fictional characters may have taught us about being Unitarian Universalists. As Trixie might say: "Gleeps!" It's another UU adventure with Kathy and Saul!

12 July

What Do You Ache For?

Lay Leader Linda Mishler with Kamaria Wolf.

A service in prose, poetry, and interpretive dance, based on "The Invitation" by Oriah Mountain Dreamer. This service will be interactive and thought provoking.

19 July

Summer Music Sunday

Lay Leader Lois Weir with Worship Associate **(tba)**

Make a Good Noise! The second annual Summer Music Sunday! Come back from Summer Institute refreshed and reenergized and join or enjoy the music.

26 July

Inspiration!

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer with Worship Associate Dani Beale

Consider this kind of like chef's choice. Come, worship and be inspired!

29 July, Wednesday

Vespers

Lori McGee

7 - 7:30, Vespers

7:30 Ice cream Social



A message in the language of cupcakes from
the Bowens at the church picnic

Melissa's Schedule Through July

A note about my schedule: I will be attending the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly from June 22 – 28 and the Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute from July 12 -18. During that time I will be available by cell phone for urgent concerns. I will be on vacation from June 29 – July 11. Our Commissioned Lay Leader, Christie Anderson, will be available during that time for urgent concerns.

Karen Lapidus Receives MA and Award

Karen was a long-time UUCK member. At the Meadville Lombard Commencement Ceremonies on May 17, 2009 in Chicago, IL, Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development, Karen received her MA in Religious Studies. The faculty also awarded her the prestigious Roberta Nelson Prize in Religious Education for her outstanding scholarship.

Moderator Mishler's Musings

I attempted to get out of writing this column – but was told by Melissa and Rhonda that this was in the unofficial and unwritten duties of Moderator. Hmm(?). My first comment is to thank you all for your confidence and support for the board and me. I am pleased with the make-up of the board. We have a mix of individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds. Our varied experiences give us our personalities – and I think that this will make for a very interesting time.

A bit of housekeeping – I tried to keep my old email address but found that already too much information is being sent - so I decided to create another account for church doings.

As our church grows, so does the type of governing and leadership. All progress is due to change - but all change is not necessarily progress - but sometime change is the only way to go. As a board, we hope to continue what Rhonda Richardson and our previous board did by exploring "Policy Governance" and other styles of leadership. We should adopt methods to allow people to express and act on their ideas. But the models must be adjusted to fit our uniqueness at this church. Joan VanBecelaere (OMD Executive Director) once said, "Leadership must come from below. Wrong or right we need to take chances.

We should embrace the natural chaos of life" (approx). Scary huh?

If you have an idea - tell me. If you like something we do – tell me. If you like something we used to do – tell me. Or tell someone on the Board.

They keep talking about lessening our footprint on this planet. Why don't we leave a UU footprint instead? - A light footprint with our work in the community and in the church.

My musings were saddened by the news of Dorothy Myer's passing. She was a fine person. We will miss her. More sadness comes in the news that Tom Myers will be moving to Seattle. I knew him well from our Men's Group. He enjoyed the group and was always a contributor of meaningful and well thought-out comments. When I spoke with him, he said he was not moving by choice. I will miss Tom.

Until next month, *Rod Mishler* - Moderator



Cheril Spoehr gets some plastic on the old ball.



Social Justice Update

Your Social Justice Committee wants to hear from you! As part of our revised social justice bulletin board we have added a place for suggestions for our monthly social justice special offerings. Feel free to fill out this easy-to-use form.

Also, we need to show our community what we stand for -- we are encouraging all of you great justice seeking folks to wear your UU related social justice T shirts, buttons, hats, etc. to the various public events in our area (such as the Kent Heritage Festival). We don't need to be preaching on the street corner, but we should be out showing our true colors.

Peace- *Mac Goekler*

Make a Good Noise on Music Sunday !

Let your unique musical voice be heard on Music Sunday, **July 19**. Be a part of the program! Contact Lois Weir (or Linda Mishler) and let us know what musical number you'd like to perform.

Thanks, Lois Weir

RE Director's Notes

A few days after returning from Washington DC an eighty eight year old man began shooting as he entered the Holocaust Museum. News accounts indicate the man was motivated by hate. As happens in horrible and shocking times, my mind moved quickly and my emotions moved rapidly. Feelings of shock, disbelief, and sadness were followed by a need to do something. The realization came to me in a small quiet thought, as UU's trying to live out the principles, we are doing something everyday we strive to live out the principles. The following 7 UU principles have been modified and are known as the children's versions:

Each person is important
Be kind in all you do
We're free to learn together
We search for what is true
All people need a voice
Build a fair and peaceful world
We care for earth's lifeboat

Religious Education is an intentional act I engage in as a director of religious education and as a parent. UU religious education is a purposeful act to teach our children and remind us of our values in this life. It is easy to think of RE as the place our children engage in so that we can experience adult worship or a break from our children. Perhaps our children see RE as a break from parents and a time to be with peers.

Yet, something deeper is happening during that hour on Sunday mornings. Each curriculum is based on living relationships out of UU beliefs and values. Relationships with self, other, our beliefs, and the larger world around us are explored through a UU lens. Children learn from the world around them, they are taking in more than we realize at times. Religious education is an intentional experience. This experience informs our children and youth, our families, community and even the shape of our world.

Taking the time to teach religious education, plan the weekly lesson and engage the children and youth is not for the faint of heart. Being involved with religious education is a bold act that lets our children know they are valued and they matter. Being involved with religious education and UU beliefs decreases opportunities for hate to grow and encourages love and compassion.

Diana VanWinkle, Director of Religious Education

Search for New Kent Director of RE

The search for a new DRE has begun. The position has been posted on our church website, the OMD website, and notices have been sent to all the churches in our district. The Search Committee invites your feedback on the following goals identified for the RE program.

- Continue to grow middle school and youth programs especially those involving fostering of leadership activities; for example, bridging, coming of age and OWL (Our Whole Lives)
- Continue and add intergenerational activities including Sunday mornings as well as the Halloween Party, Game Night, and Surprise Friends
- Start "Children's Canvass" and "Youth Canvass"
- Continue to develop Social Justice activities for youth and children
- Obtain Religious Education Programs which promote outdoor activities
- Increase support for Religious Education teachers and advisors (training, recruitment and retention)
- Continue partnership with Hogwarts-Kent Branch
- Grow 2nd Service Religious Education Program

If you have any comments or suggestions on these goals, please contact a member of the DRE Search Committee: Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Mary Leeson, Amy Edmonds, Tracy Parsons, Joel Slater.

Anna gets tagged by Melissa on a squeeze play



Melissa and Becky Haines in 'Turning the Wheel' dance

School's Out, Hunger Happens

For many children, summer vacation does not mean fun and games. It means having little energy and being hungry because there is no subsidized breakfast or lunch to eat for 2 and perhaps their only meals of the day. Summer feeding programs are woefully underfunded; they cannot and do not reach all of the children in need.

We can help; we need to help. All summer long, please try to bring 1 item per week to church for the Kent Social Services food baskets . . . anything and everything helps. Some child and family-meal friendly items are cereal, peanut butter & jelly, macaroni & cheese mix, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, tuna fish, canned fruit & vegetables, shelf stable fruit & pudding cups, canned pasta like ravioli or any type of "meal-in-a-can" items, healthy snacks like raisins/crackers/granola & fruit bars and 100% fruit juice.

Large oval wicker baskets are located on the ground level across from the elevator and on the sanctuary level in the foyer just outside the sanctuary. Please help keep the baskets full and overflowing every week with your care and generosity.

Thank you, *Elaine Yehle Bowen*



Frank Kendrick

We are sorry to report the death of Frank Kendrick, a longtime member of our congregation who has been struggling in recent years with a debilitating lung disease. A memorial service in Frank's honor will be held at the church on Monday, July 6 at 6:30 pm with a reception to follow in Fessenden Hall. If you are willing to contribute a dessert or to help with set up or clean up for the reception, please contact the church office.

Frank was deeply involved in peace and justice activism throughout his life. During the reception a collection of materials representing Frank's involvement with numerous social change organizations will be on display. If you have articles or photos or other materials to add to this display, the family encourages you to bring them to the reception.

Featured books this month

We are featuring two books in the church library this month. First, *Out of the Ordinary: Meditations* by Gordon B. McKeeman (Skinner House Books, 2000). Rev. McKeeman says, "We live in ordinary places, do ordinary things, discharge ordinary duties. So to be able to find the extraordinary in the ordinary is one way to make each day--if not each hour or each moment--a life enhancing occasion. Rev. McKeeman was a UU minister for 45 years and the minister of the Akron UU Church for over 20 years. He also served as president of Starr King School for the Ministry (UU).

Second, *Peace in Our Lifetime: Insights from the World's Peacemakers* by Susan Skog, with forward by Thich Nhat Hanh (Cliffrose Communications, 2004). This book offers a sweeping message of hope and optimism. Through compelling stories and lessons from more than 50 exceptional peace-makers, *Peace in Our Lifetime* shows how we can resolve our deepest conflicts and enjoy peace, personally and globally.



**Clinton Hobbs and grandchildren
at picnic**

Financial Corner

Prior to Sunday June 14, but after making the mortgage payment, we had about \$9,000 in the bank. We have some bills and two payrolls to pay yet in June. Payroll alone is about \$9000 for the two pay periods. But we will have revenues from June 14, 21 and 28. If everyone meets their [perhaps revised] 2009 pledge goal, we will end the month with about the planned \$6000 in the bank.

Now is the time to get caught up on your 2009 pledge. A few, but not many people have contacted me saying they will not be able to meet their commitment. Most of those who have not yet completed their 2009 pledge payments have not contacted me, and we still have many thousand dollars of pledges outstanding for fiscal year 2009. WHICH ENDS JUNE 30. So now is time to get caught up.

Checks dated June 30 and prior will be credited to 2009 pledges, unless marked otherwise. Checks dated July 1 and later will be credited to 2010 pledge donations.

Everyone who contributed in the first quarter this should have gotten a Contribution Report through March 31, 2009. If that report does not agree with your records, you want to know how much you still owe on your 2009 pledge, or if you contributed through March but did not receive a Contribution Report, please contact me.

And if you ARE caught up on your 2009 pledge, THANK YOU. If you want to get a head start on the 2010 "summer slump", many have been making prepayments toward

their 2010 pledge. This is a big help toward alleviating our summer cash flow problems, particularly if you give weekly or monthly but are going away for awhile in the summer. We get no vacation from our bills.

Thanks for your 2009 pledge payments so far, and your generous 2010 pledges. Let's get up to date in June so we can start 2010 in a strong financial position. Thanks.

After many years of service, Beth Straubhaar has stepped down from being Treasurer. She is kind enough to assist Gene Wenninger, our new Treasurer, through June, and beyond if needed on specific questions. Please thank Beth for her many years of service, and welcome Gene to his new position when you see him.

Beth Kuemerle has been elected to a second 2-year term as Financial Secretary, but in this term, she shares this responsibility with Eric van Baars, the other co-Financial Secretary. Welcome them to their positions when you see them.

Contact me anytime.

Bob Erdman, Trustee for Finance

Art in the Sanctuary

Linda Hutchinson, an award winning painter, is featured in the artwork in the sanctuary this July and August. A few of Linda's awards include First Place in Kaleidoscope 2007, a Gold Metal in Watercolor Ohio in 2001, and Akron's First Night Button Artists Award in 2008. She is recognized as a master in the art of human figure painting.



The first pitch from Melissa

Notes from the Committee on Ministry

Summer brings change to both our personal and our church lives. We have just approved a new budget, installed a new Board of Trustees and temporarily have 1 Sunday service. The Committee on Ministry (CoM) is also under going change. We have welcomed two new members in May and in June, say thank you to 2 retiring members.

Chris Hurlbut and Jane Krimmer bring a wealth of knowledge of our faith and much enthusiasm with them as they join the CoM this summer. We are delighted that they have been chosen to serve our church community as members of the CoM.

Departing June 24 are committee co-chairs Kathie Slater and Saul Flanner. Both Kathie and Saul were members of the Ministerial Search Committee who brought Melissa to the UUCK and extended their service with 3 years on the CoM. Their pursuit of excellence in all areas of ministry and tireless service to the church are greatly appreciated. To Kathie and Saul, our heartfelt thanks for your considerable time and talents and also for epitomizing Unitarian Universalist principles and ideals.

Respectfully, *Elaine Yehle Bowen*



Jo Fatchet and Evangeline

Book Club News

We will meet on Tuesday, July 21, at 7 pm at the home of Pat Pownall. It is the first building on your right as you drive into the apartment complex. Thank you, Pat, for hosting us often. Those attending should bring food to share.

We will read one of three books by Kent Haruf to discuss with the others: *The Tie That Binds*, *Where You Once Belonged*, or *West of Last Chance* (part photographic). Haruf, whose novels are set in eastern Colorado, writes in the tradition of Willa Cather about our western lands and peoples.

Bring the name of a book that we might read in the next several months.



Small Group Ministry Highlights

The Small Group Ministry program completed another successful year. Over 70 individuals participated, with the assistance of 9 facilitators. Two new groups were formed this year, a young adult group and a group consisting of participants living in the Akron area. This year's service projects included crafting more candles as gifts for visitors, the collection of food and toiletries for Kent Social Services, set-up for the church book sale, creation of writings for a church devotional book, and preparation of the book of sentiments given to Melissa. Additional service projects to take place in coming months include help with coffee hour and a get acquainted event scheduled for September.

The Steering Committee would like to thank those who served as SGM facilitators-Dani Beale, Rachael Beale, Elaine Bowen, Chris Hurlbut, Trish McLoughlin, Saunis Parsons, Kristofer Sperry, Marion Yeagler and Christie Anderson. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mike Plishka for his generous help in creating a SGM page on the church web site. The SGM Steering Committee for the past season consisted of: Rev. Melissa Carville-Zeimer, Rod Mishler, Christie Anderson, Elaine Bowen, Kristina Spaude and Linda Mishler. Elaine Bowen will be chairing the Steering Committee for the upcoming program year, which will offer exciting new features!

Christie Anderson

Signing "The Book"

If you have been attending services here for awhile and feel ready to take the next step, there are several ways to approach that. You can speak to our minister and let her know. You can go to the church website at www.kentuu.org and contact one of the membership team members. You will be encouraged to take the "New UU" class at the church which will introduce you to Unitarian Universalism and more about our church. Signing the Membership Book at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent implies a commitment to the basic principles of Unitarian Universalism, as well as to this church and its community.

We are initiating regular monthly Membership Book signings to be held on the third Sunday of every month after the service in the Library.

Linda Mishler, Linda.mishler@gmail.com
Membership Team

Recordings of Services

Due to the overwhelming lack of response, the CD recordings of services stored in the church library will be discontinued, although the full services will be archived for future release if requested. The previous year's recordings will remain in the library, and abbreviated versions of future services will still be posted to the UUCK website. The producers at UUCK audio services are saddened at this latest development, but the current economy has caused necessary cutbacks in the archival division. And one archivist wants to spend more time on his bike.

Brad Bolton, head archivist,
UUCK Audio Services



**Leslie Barrett, tagged out
by her own hit**



**Mark forces an out with
assist from Lee**

Be a Great Greeter

The Membership Team is interested in finding some new members. We serve as greeters and staff the membership table between services. We welcome new people, provide a new UU class, and organize a new member ceremony and potluck. Finally we provide a directory of members and friends.

It is an opportunity for church members to share with newcomers the good things they themselves have found in our church. Contact Linda Mishler.

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

July Church Events

28 10-11:00 School group <i>EA</i> 11-12:00 Pancake Bkfst. <i>F</i> 4-5:30 Easy Yoga 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	29 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice	30 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	1 9:30a Yoga 6:30-8:30 Summer SGM <i>EA</i> 6:30-8:00 Sanctuary in use	2 5:30 Yoga 6:30-8:00 Sanctuary in use 7:30 Yoga	3	4
5 10-11 School group <i>EA</i> 1-3:00 Hogwarts mtg. <i>EA</i> 4-5:30 Easy Yoga 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	6 10:15a gentle Yoga 11-4 Sanctuary in use 5:15 Yoga 6:30-7:30 Kendrick service <i>p5</i> 7:00 Clan @ Loylton 7:00 Tai chi	7 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-10 Possible Board mtg.	8 9:30a Yoga 6:30-8:30 SGM <i>EA</i> 6:30-8 Sanctuary in use 7-9:30 Board mtg. <i>EA</i>	9 5:30 Yoga 6:30-8 Sanctuary in use 7:30 Yoga	10 7-10 Didgeridoo workshop (tent.)	11
12 4:00 Easy yoga 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	13 10:15a gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi	14 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	15 Newsletter deadline 9:30a Yoga	16 5:30 Yoga 7:30 Yoga	17	18
19 10 Music Sunday <i>p3</i> 4-5:30 Easy Yoga 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	20 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan Stow Glen	21 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 6:30-7:30 Race talk <i>EA</i> 7:00 Challenging Yoga	22 9:30a Yoga 6:30-8:30 SGM <i>EA</i>	23 5:30 Yoga 6:30-7:30 Race talk <i>EA</i> 7:30 Yoga	24	25 6:30-7:30 Race talk <i>EA</i>
26 11-12:00 Pancake Bkfst. <i>F</i> 4-5:30 Easy Yoga 6:30-7:30 Race talk <i>EA</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	27 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice <i>CB</i>	28 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-8:30 New UU class <i>EA</i>	29 9:30a Yoga 6:30-8:30 Summer SGM <i>EA</i> 7-8 Spirit & Sundaes	30 5:30 Yoga 7:30 Yoga	31	1

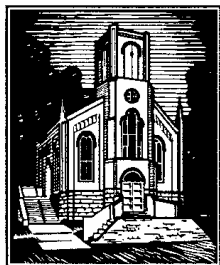
Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall
EA- Eldredge Annex; *FH*- Fessenden Hall; *FL*- Founders' Lounge; *L*- Library; *S*-Sanctuary; *N*- Nursery;
CB- Christie and Brad's house

Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after June 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.



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



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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*

Celtic Clan for July

July 6 7pm Loyalton at Ravenna
July 13 No practice
July 20 7pm Stow Glenn Assisted Living
July 27 Practice 7:30 at Christie & Brad's house.

Some of us will be playing at Kent Rotary noon
on July 27th at Twin Lakes Country Club. More
info to follow.

Summer Small Group Ministry

Just a reminder to group members that our meetings are
on Wednesdays -

July 1
July 8
July 22
July 29
August 5

in the Eldredge Annex from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Thank you, *Elaine Yehle Bowen*, facilitator



Garrison and Jesse Beale

Out To Lunch Bunch

There will be no out to lunch bunch over the
summer, since our one service ends too early
for lunch. Should we start an Out-To-Munch-
a-Bunch-of-Brunch Bunch?