



The Chalice Flame



The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

June 2010

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240
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Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

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Tuesday and/or Wednesday
By appointment

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

After so many days of cool, grey and rain, the view outside my window is finally just lovely. I am looking forward to helping Ellen get our garden in shape and to welcoming those of you participating in the garden tour later this month to check out our not so polished but very productive lasagna gardening method. Thinking about being outside more often reminds me of an initiative that our Green Sanctuary Core Team (Green Team) is planning for this summer.

With the leadership of the youth participants on the Green Team (Tracy Parsons, Alex Teagle and John Bores) we are going to offer a "ride your bike or walk to church challenge" this summer. The youth are still working out the details, but the gist of the idea is to challenge church members and friends who are physically able to walk or bike to church as often as they can this summer. Those who live at distances that make that unrealistic might consider driving part way and then parking and walking or biking the rest of the way. The youth plan to find a fun way to keep track of the number of miles biked or walked and are even thinking about offering prizes to those who achieve a certain number of miles. Stay tuned for more details.

The high school youth group, with the leadership of Colleen Norris, Kristina Spaude, Andrew Bores and Andrea Bussinger are also embarking on another green challenge this spring. They are building an electric powered green vehicle that they hope to debut at our picnic in the park later this month. They also intend to share it with the Summer Institute community later this summer as a way of inspiring other congregations to come up with their own green challenges.

In keeping with our green commitment, our Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus and the Religious Education Committee have decided to make the environment the focus of this summer's religious education program. This summer our kids will be exploring environmental themes at church using the *Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children* curriculum. For more information about our summer religious education program please see Karen's article in this newsletter.

In other Green Sanctuary news, the adult members of our Green Team (Ted Voneida, Patty Miller, Larry Cole and Angela Barzizza-Young) have been organizing the groundwork that will enable us to submit our green sanctuary application to the Unitarian Universalist Association this coming fall. In order to be ready they will need to make a recommendation about an energy audit and are currently researching respected auditors as well as the estimated cost and benefits of a formal audit.

The other major portion of the application requires us to identify at least twelve projects we will undertake in the next year in a variety of areas of church life. Several people have expressed an interest in a gardening project. Claudia Miller has volunteered to organize those who are interested in planting and tending the green space that will become available when our garage is torn down this summer. Please look for more information from Claudia in the Thread from the Web and e-nuus if you would like to participate. Over the next few months we will be in need of volunteers

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Upcoming Sermons

30 May 2010

Perchance to Dream

Rev. Matt Alspaugh and Worship Associate Marion Yeagler

What are we to make of our dreams? Do they offer guidance, spiritual insight, or are they just filler for the nighttime mind? If dreams do have something to say, we'll explore how we might make sense of them.

The Rev. Matt Alspaugh is the consulting minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Youngstown. This morning Matt, our minister Melissa and three other area Unitarian Universalist ministers are participating in a five congregation pulpit exchange. Melissa is leading worship this morning at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Canton.

2 June Vespers - 7:00 pm

Ice Cream Dreams

Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

Do you recall hot summer days of childhood, eating an ice cream cone or twin popsicle with the sugary drips running down your chin, arm or both? Do you remember not having a care in the world, dreaming of what you were going to do and who you were going to be when you grew up? Have those dreams come true? Or did they fall to the pavement and melt away? We'll welcome the coming of summer with reflection and revisiting our once-upon-a-time ice cream dreams. Real ice cream sundaes will follow at 7:30.

6 June 2010

Imagine the Flowers

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kristofer Sperry

Imagine that the variety and beauty of the flowers represents the variety and beauty of the people who make up our congregation. Come enjoy our annual Flower Ceremony and join in reflecting on creative possibility awakened by imagination. Bring a flower or two with you to church and join in our celebration of life.

Please note that we will have a fire drill this Sunday after each service. We will give directions at the start of the service and need your cooperation to continue to refine our emergency procedures.

13 June 2010

The Faith of the Man Who Made the Greatest Show on Earth

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Eric Van Baars

He was a showman, a public benefactor and an advocate of Universalism. Come explore the life and faith of P.T. Barnum and consider what inspiration his story might offer for our lives today.

20 June - 10:30 am

Religious Education Sunday and Church Picnic

The Religious Education Committee and Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education

The end of the regular program year offers us an opportunity to celebrate! Along with expressing our appreciation to our teachers and volunteers, the children in our religious education program will share highlights from their classroom experiences. Our high school seniors will be honored as well. It is sure to be a joyous multigenerational worship service! Our annual church potluck picnic will immediately follow the service. Nursery care will not be provided.

Note that there will be only one service at 10:30 am at Plum Creek Park pavilion. Please bring lawn chairs and a dish to share.

27 June

I Never Met the Man

Tom Beck with Worship Associate Dani Beale

We will explore the phenomenon of how our actions can influence others in ways that we may not have anticipated.



Moderator McGee's Musings

Endorse: v. to approve openly; *especially*: to express support or approval of publicly and definitely. Well, you know what they say: Time flies when you're having fun! I can't believe that the end of this board and church year is almost here. In just a few weeks, we will come together for our annual meeting; it's on June 13th between services. We have a few items on our agenda this year: the budget, the elections, some by-law changes, the decision to ordain Reneé Ruchotzke, and an endorsement for the congregation to consider.

As you know (if you've read my column), I have been talking about changing our current form of governance to policy governance for a while now. In fact, the board has been studying policy governance for three years: we've read books, watched videos, had many discussions. When I became Moderator in September of last year, I felt it was time to begin implementing all that we had learned. However, as hard as we tried, the board always got stuck when it came to actually trying to fit policy governance into our congregation. The entire board was getting very frustrated and we didn't know how to proceed. Then, a chance conversation with Joan van Bece-laere, the OMD District Executive, changed everything. She said that policy governance really only works for congregations larger than 300-350 members. She went on to recommend the book Governance and Ministry, by Dan Hotchkiss, which she said contained an excellent blueprint for us to follow for the changes we needed for our board and for our congregation. We all got copies of the book and we realized that policy governance was too big for us, but Hotchkiss' model, policy-type governance, was the perfect fit. We are basically taking the elements we need from policy governance and making it fit our needs. Plus, Hotchkiss writes specifically for churches,

not for Fortune-500 companies. We have a direction, and implementation is now possible.

This is where you come in to the story. The board is asking you to endorse a one-year trial period during which we can begin the process of change. We want the congregation to be involved in the change at each major step of the way. We don't want any part of this to be mysterious; we want this change to involve as much of the congregation as wants to participate. We hope you will bring your voice and ideas to these discussions. There will be a proposal letter in this year's annual report. It outlines the need for and goals of this proposed change. I encourage you to ask questions. Our information meeting is June 12th at 7:00. Please consider coming—we will have a nice surprise this year!

I have enjoyed my time as Moderator. Thank you all for the caring and support you've show to me through these past months. I look forward to future service to this wonderful community.

In service, faith and love, *Lori*

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.

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to help us lead time-limited action teams in pursuit of our green sanctuary efforts. Please let me or any member of the Green Team know if you would like to participate.

In faith,



Annual Meeting

There will be an Informational meeting on Saturday June 12 at 7:00 pm in Fessenden Hall. The Annual Meeting Agenda for June 13 from 10:40 am – 11:00 am is:

- 1) Ordination of Renee Ruchotzke;
- 2) Election of 2010-2012 Board members;
- 3) Endorsement of Governance Changes;
- 4) Accepting the budget
- 5) Changes to the By-laws.

Summer Chalice Group

For the 3rd summer running, I will be offering the opportunity for those who would like to try out Chalice Groups (or for those who can't wait for October to come around!). Chalice Group sessions are a low stress and enjoyable way to meet new people in the church in a meaningful way. A group of 6 - 8 participants will meet for 6 - 2 hour sessions to discuss spiritual topics in a manner that allows for equal sharing and reflection. We welcome introverts and extroverts alike.

The dates are Thursday June 10th & 17th, July 1st & 8th, and July 22nd & 29th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the (mercifully) air conditioned comfort of the Eldredge Annex. All sessions will be **new** and will cover diverse topics such as Fear, Humility, Bodies of Water, Squirmy Patriotism [I'll bet that title has you curious!] and a few others still up my creative sleeve.

This is not a drop in group; in order for the participants to bond and for the process to work as it is meant to, regular attendance is expected for 4 or more of the sessions. I need a minimum of 5-6 people to offer the program.

To sign up or for more information, please contact me evenings between 7 and 9 pm.

In faith, *Elaine Yehle Bowen* - Group facilitator

Privacy Issues

Our Membership Committee is beginning the process of producing a new, updated directory. This directory includes names, children's names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. This directory will be made available to our members and friends. It is not posted on the website. If, for any reason, you do not want your personal information listed in this directory, please notify the church office via email (uukent@sbcglobal.net) or phone (330-673-4247).

Frequently, photos of our members and friends appear in the monthly newsletter. These pictures are usually used to illustrate one of the news items or activities of the church. If you do not want your photo or those of family to appear in the newsletter, please contact the church office.

Committee on Ministry News

Each winter, the Ohio-Meadville District solicits nominations from member congregations to pay tribute to those who demonstrate great dedication to our faith. The final selection is made in the spring and the award is presented at the District Assembly. In the category of Service to Youth and Children, the Committee on Ministry's nominee was Mary Leeson, Chair of the RE Committee. Mary Leeson has been deeply involved with our Religious Education Program for at least 20 years as our DRE in 1994-95, a preschool teacher, member (and now Chair) of the RE Committee and in 2009, as the chair of the DRE Search Committee. Mary grounds her "ministry" firmly in our Unitarian Universalist tradition and brings both her heart and her head to her work. She is practical, organized and efficient; she brings a model of professionalism to her volunteerism. During the past 2 years, Mary has spent untold hours in training, preparation and the implementation of Spirit Play, a curriculum for ages 4 through 2nd grade. Last year, she was the co-facilitator for the Spirit Play workshop at the OMD annual curriculum fair. Mary frames all her activities within the church through the lens of our children and youth. Her quiet, unassuming and loving manner has touched the life of each child who has grown up in Kent's program of religious education. Mary's dedication and unflagging energy for improving and growing our RE program are testament to her love of our congregation's children. We are truly blessed that she live her faith through them.

In faith, Elaine Yehle Bowen, Chair - CoM

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

Chris Hurlbut

Jane Krimmer

Randy Ruchotzke



Rowan Matney and Lauren Edmonds, speakers at the Coming of Age service

Marfy Family Touched by Tennessee Floods

I learned recently that John Marfy's mother, Valeria Marfy, was among those whose lives have been turned upside down by the flood in Tennessee. When I asked John how his mom was doing he replied with the following email. I share it with you with his permission:

"My mom is doing as well as can be expected. She's lost all her furniture to the flooding and of course, there was a lot of damage to the condo itself. Many of the pieces were pieces that have been in the family since we were children, and some even belonged to her mother in Hungary. It was difficult for her to see them getting put out to the curb, but in the end, it's all stuff and the important thing is that she's alive. She's been through worse as she survived WW2 in Hungary as a Jew, so she's pretty tough. She also has a great support system with my sister and her husband and my half brother all living nearby.

Like many folks in Nashville, she has no flood insurance for her home, so what they all really need at this time is cash to rebuild their homes and replace necessary items like clothing, bedding and food. My sister, half brother and myself have been discussing ways to get her the cash she needs."

I have met Mrs. Marfy on several occasions when she has visited our church and I feel moved to offer her a little help. I will be making a gift to Mrs. Marfy from the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help her rebuild her home. If you would like to contribute to the gift, please do so by June 6. You can either write a check to the Minister's Discretionary Fund and note "Marfy family donation" on the memo line or donate cash using a contribution envelope with "Marfy family donation" noted on the outside of the envelope.

In faith, *Melissa*

Children's Religious Education Program Goes Green

Over the summer the children ages 4 through grade 8 will gather on Sunday mornings to engage with "Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children". The curriculum was written by Unitarian Universalist religious educator, Dawn Star Borchelt to accompany the book by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac.

Each session will focus on a story from various Native American traditions while engaging the children in lively learning activities, drama, art and plenty of outdoor experiences. The themes of the lessons--creation, earth, air, fire, water, sky, seasons, plants and animals--are addressed with reverence and a deep sense of the spiritual. The program aligns with our church's *Green Sanctuary* goals with its overarching theme of earth stewardship.

The program begins on Sunday, June 27th and runs through August 22nd. Each lesson stands alone. (There will be a multigenerational worship service on July 18th.)

Although there will be two worship services on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, **children's religious education will be offered only during at 9:30**. There will be no program or supervision of children during the 11:15 service, so families with children should plan to attend the first service. Nursery care for babies and little ones up to age 4 will be offered both services.

In faith and with love, *Karen Lapidus*, Director of Religious Education



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.

The following groups will not meet in June-

No adult RE in June on Sunday mornings
No Intentional eating group meetings
No writing group meetings.

Financial Corner

FY 2011 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Thanks to the efforts of the fine Stewardship Team, led by Cheryl Casper, and the response of members and friends of the congregation, we ended up with just under \$200,000 from this campaign, a significant increase over FY2010. The number in the FY2011 Budget is expected to be \$196,000 in donations vs. \$184,000 in FY2010. We were not able to budget for everything we wanted, but we are planning more than this year. GREAT JOB. You will see the details in the proposed FY 2011 Budget, late this month.

FY 2010 STATUS: Revenues are now about \$5000 below plan, and expenditures are about \$9000 below plan. It looks promising we will meet our budgeted year-end bank balance, provided the Budget Managers continue to stay below planned expenditures and most donors continue to meet their pledge commitments for FY2010. We may end up with a few thousand dollars more at year end than last year.

CONTRIBUTION REPORTS have been issued. There was a problem on the January 16 collection for Haiti, which has since been fixed. These contributions will show up in your next Contribution Report around August 1, for all of fiscal 2010(July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010). If you need an updated Report showing your January 16 Haiti contribution before then, email me and I'll send you one.

Our financial success in this year will in part depend on how well everyone meets their pledge for the year which ends June 30. Checks dated after that cannot be applied to FY2010. As always I will be happy to answer any questions on the Report, and/or discuss any changes that

might be needed in the names on the Report, or any items that do not look correct.

FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING: Finance Committee and the Board have been working on revised Bylaws to present to Members at the Annual Meeting on June 13, and discuss detailed questions at the information session June 12, the evening before the Annual Meeting. These will reflect the new positions previously described and the corresponding duties of key positions. Financial Policies and procedures will be updated later to reflect these changes, after congregational approval of the revised Bylaws.

I look forward to continued involvement in FY2011 as the Volunteer Bookkeeper, and to working with others to make this new organization a success. Contact me anytime to discuss this or any aspect of church finances.

Bob Erdman, Trustee for Finance

Library Chair Moves On

Lynn Kinsvatter is leaving her position as chair of the church library committee. We want to say how very much we appreciated her help in planning for the library. She helped us organize our color-coded subjects; she established our original library data base, catalogued the books on the computer and created the book cards. Lynn organized roles for the committee members and was a creative problem solver when new challenges arose.

The new committee will consist of Martha Kluth, chair, and Kathie Wilen, Olive Hobbs, and Andrew Bores. Andrew will work on maintaining the library data base.



Summer Institute is coming. You won't want to miss out on the excellent entertainment that abounds, like the Geezers in this archive shot from SI 2004.

Book Club Covered for Summer

On June 8 at 6:00 pm we will meet at the home of Linda Bunyan. We will meet at the church parking lot at 5:30 pm to carpool to Linda's. Please contact Martha Kluth if you are interested in this outing. The book this month will be Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier. By the author of Girl with a Pearl Earring, this book tells the story of an English girl born in 1800 who hunts for fossils.

On July 20 at 7 pm we will meet at the home of Bonnie Harper. (3rd Tues. this month due to SI). The book will be The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver. This story is an epic journey from the Mexico City of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR, and J. Edgar Hoover.

On August 10 we will meet at 6:30 pm at the home of Annie Brightbill. We will meet in the church parking lot to carpool at 5:30 pm. The book will be The Story of Edward Sawtelle by David Wroblewski. This is a very successful first novel that tells the story of a mute boy, his family, and his cherished dogs.

On September 14 we will meet at 7 pm at the home of Kathie Slater. We will each share a book of our choice about a place--one where we have travelled this year, one where we would like to travel, or one that fascinates us.

June Celtic Clan

6/7/10 Stow Sunshiners 1:15 Stow Glenn, Cedar Hall
6/14/10 7pm Kent Health Care Center
6/21/10 No practice
6/28/10 7pm Stow Glenn Assisted Living

UU Garden Opportunity!

There are still spaces left for those who want to wander through seven local gardens on Saturday, June 19 from 1-5. For only \$15, you can explore and enjoy these diverse gardens viewing water features, woodland settings, stone work, perennials, native plantings, and lasagna vegetable gardening. Light refreshments will be served. See Kathie Slater during coffee hour in Fessenden Hall for a ticket and more information on Sunday, June 6 and 13. Proceeds go to the general fund of the Church.

Kathie Slater

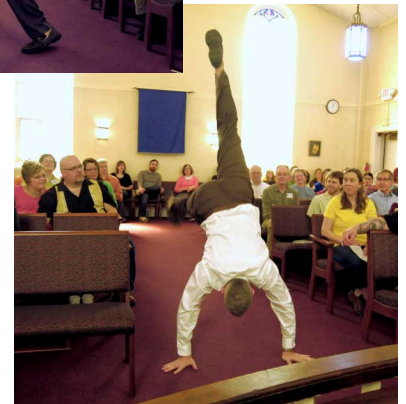
Summertime Food Needs for KSS

Food pantries are hit hard in the summer when school is out and there's no subsidized breakfast or lunch program for children. Summer lunch programs fill only a small percentage of the need and families struggle to keep food on the table. Please help by donating 1 or 2 items (or MORE) to the KSS food baskets each Sunday you come to church.

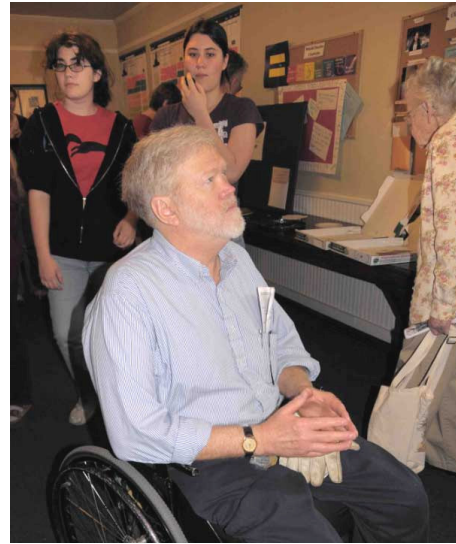
We need PB & J, tuna, mac n' cheese, canned pasta products (like ravioli) with pop-top lids, any meal-in-a-can items, meal mixes, dry cereal, pasta & spaghetti sauce, rice, mashed potato flakes, 100% juice, canned fruits & vegetables and healthy snacks.

Not a shopper? Forget to bring in an item? That's easy - stop by the Acme Bucks table during coffee hour and donate a \$10 gift card! It will help someone purchase produce, dairy, protein and personal care items.

Please help if you can - each item makes a difference to someone in Kent.



Eric Van Baars dances during the lay-led service on artistic creativity.



U.S. Representative Gene Young (left) and Dean Kahler attended our May 2 service with guest speaker Dr. Thomas Grace. Dean Kahler was shot on May 4, 1970, and John Lewis is a leading civil rights advocate who spoke at the May 4 gathering at Kent State



Coming of Age youth and mentors singing at their service.

Church children standing on the side of love during the "Time for All Ages" segment during church.



June Church Events

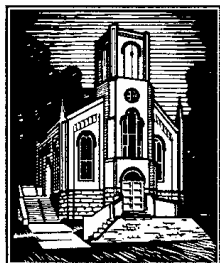
30 9:30-10:30 Adult RE <i>EA</i> 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes redux 6:30 Choir 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	31 7:00 Tai chi	1 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	2 7:00 Vespers <i>S</i>	3	4	5
6 6:30 Choir 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	7 7:00 Tai chi	8 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 11:30 set up lunch 12:00 Retirees lunch 7-9:30 Board mtg. <i>EA</i>	9 6:30 RE com. mtg. <i>EA</i>	10 6:30-8:30 Chalice Group <i>EA p 4</i>	11 6:30-10 Spa- ghetti dinner <i>FH p. 3</i>	12 7-9:00 pm Congrega- tional info mtg. <i>S</i>
13 10:40 annual mtg. <i>S p 3</i> 6:30 Choir 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	14 7:00 Tai Chi	15 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline Newsletter deadline 7-9 SPAN Ohio <i>S</i>	16 10-1:00 Fes- senden in use	17 Hogwarts 6:30-8:30 Chalice Group <i>EA p 4</i>	18 Hogwarts Overnight- SI Touch train- ing	19 Hogwarts 12-3:00 SI Touch training
20 Hogwarts 10:30 Worship @ Plum Creek + picnic 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	21 7:00 Tai chi	22 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	23	24	25	26
27 7-9 <i>AA FH</i> 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes reflux 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	28 7:00 Tai chi	29 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	30	1 6:30-8:30 Chalice Group <i>EA</i>	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;
CB- Christie and Brad's house

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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People from all over Ohio descended on the capital during Equality Ohio's lobby day to promote legislation favoring LGBT issues. Pictured are Saunis Parsons, Rev. Melissa, Noreen Kumm-Gory, and Sandy Bowers. Cheryl Spoehr and Renee Ruchotzke also attended. Out of 250 participants, about 50 were UUs from all over the state.

Photo by Renee Ruchotzke.