

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
3400 DUPONT AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55408



THE liberal

Upcoming Sunday Services At 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

May 3

"God Bearers, Life Bearers,
Love Bearers"
Justin Schroeder,
Candidate for Senior Minister

May 10

"Earth Mother"
Rev. Charlotte Cowtan

May 17

"Word and Deed"

Sharing Sunday

Rev. Charlotte Cowtan

May 24

"Connecting to Memorial Day:
Remembering the Sacrifice"

ONE SERVICE ONLY - 10 a.m.

Sarah Heuser, Worship Associate

May 31

ONE SERVICE ONLY - 10 a.m.

"Here in This Place"

FLOWER COMMUNION SUNDAY

Rev. Kate Tucker

Words from Kate

"A garden I tend whose blossoms
never existed."

—Pablo Neruda

It will be May (or nearly) when you read this. Welcome to spring. Welcome to the month of budding branches, birdsong, and the perfume of lilacs. In Minnesota, May is a month for "being here now." Nevertheless—inevitably—I'm already thinking about our next church year, September 2009 to June 2010. It promises to be a magnificent time for us.

We'll continue to celebrate our sesquicentennial, we'll go deeper with current endeavors, we'll prepare for a Twin Cities-hosted UUA General Assembly, we'll welcome new families, we'll respond to the unforeseen needs of the hour, we'll catch hold of bold new possibilities for our future. And very high on our agenda will be the happy project of getting to know our new senior minister and helping our minister get to know us. My hope is that while we're at it, we'll also get to know each other better.

One way to do this is through interaction in small groups—friendship groups, arts groups, support groups, task groups, interest groups. Next year we'll add something new to this list: ARC groups. ARC stands for Action-Reflection-Connection. The groups will include aspects of all three. Heidi Mastrud, staff member who is a leader of the ARC project, describes the groups:

"You'll meet in a facilitated group of 8-10 and reflect on issues of spiritual importance, while making deeper connections in the community. The groups will be made up of men and women, new and longtime members, younger and older people." Periodically, these groups will participate in a service project of their choice—either in the church or in the wider community—and then meet to reflect on their experience.

Last fall and winter, we researched and shaped our plans for the ARC groups. This spring we have two pilot groups (plus an enthusiastic, thoughtful youth group) doing test runs. In the summer, we'll prepare for a fall launch. In September, we'll invite you to join a group. Then, all year, we'll be attentive to your groups and your feedback.

ARC groups are meant to be places where our Unitarian Universalist identity is strengthened, where caring takes root, where spirits are tended, where understanding grows. Our faith is that some kinds of growth can happen in any season.

The blessings of spring to you,

Kate

Mission Statement

We join together at First Universalist Church in a welcoming, spiritual community that affirms our liberal religious heritage. Our ministry is to bring the Universalist message of love and hope to one another, to our children, and to the work of social justice.

May 1-31, 2009

ISSUE NO. 14

Leadership Spotlight

Thank You Search Committee!

By Sue Schiess
President of the Congregation

You're probably reading this at the very beginning of "candidating week" — the nine days when we'll all get a chance to hear, observe, talk to, and get to know Justin Schroeder, the search committee's choice to be our next senior minister. **Then at 12:15 p.m. on May 3**, church members will vote whether or not to "call" Justin. Exciting!

On behalf of the entire church community, I want to thank the ministerial search committee — Nancy Gaschott, Dan Bishop, Andrea Johnson, Larry Lavercombe, Cindy Marsh, Sara Smalley, and Deborah Talen — for their hard work and steadfast dedication to the task of finding the best senior minister for us. They've done a spectacularly good job!

I look forward to seeing all of YOU as we get to know Justin in the days ahead. It's gonna be so much fun!

Love (my statement of faith in this church community),
Sue

Transitional Times

Candidating Week April 26 – May 3

Candidating Week is your chance to meet Justin Schroeder, candidate for Senior Minister of First Universalist Church. **To see the full calendar and plan what event(s) you want to attend**, go to www.firstuniv.org.

Especially note the all-church social hour and supper on Friday, May 1, from 5:00-8:00 p.m., and the Congregational Vote, May 3, at 12:15 p.m.

All Church News

2009-2010 Budget Hearings

There will be several opportunities for members to view the budget prior to the June 7 Annual Meeting:

- Thursday, May 14
7:00 p.m. Cummins Room
- Sunday, May 17
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary &
12:15 p.m. Sanctuary

Please attend one of these important meetings. The congregation will approve the budget at the Annual Meeting.

150th Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 7
11:15 a.m.

The Annual Meeting is a central event of the church year, a time to review the past year and to make your voice heard by casting your vote. Please plan to attend.

Here's the Story

By Patti Frazee, x104
Director of Administration

2008-2009 Budget

We end our fiscal year on June 30. Given the current economic climate, the congregation has really been phenomenal in their commitment to First Universalist. Our pledge income is coming in slightly stronger than at this time last year. Having said that, our budget is still feeling the pinch.

We have asked committees to tighten their belts and curtail unnecessary spending. Pledge statements have gone out to those households in arrears. If you will have difficulty fulfilling your pledge, please notify one of the ministers (ccowtan@firstuniv.org, ext. 102; ktucker@firstuniv.org, ext. 103).

2009-2010 Budget

As of this writing, we have \$731,000 pledged to our 09-10 budget. We're still waiting to hear from just over 50 households. Please turn in a pledge card if you haven't already done so.

We're looking at about a \$40,000 budget shortfall for next year. You can still help by purchasing raffle tickets. Details

about our **Go Green! Raffle** is at the bottom of this page.

I want to thank all of the great raffle volunteers (more than 100 of them!) who are out there helping us make our budget for next year! And, thanks to all of you who buy tickets!

Split the Plate

The Split the Plate offerings are extremely successful! Thank you for your generosity! Here is what we've achieved so far:

February recipient: TRUST; \$2,368

March recipient: Minneapolis Crisis Nursery; \$1,707

This is the work of our church.

SESQUICENTENNIAL NEWS

SESQUICENTENNIAL SOIREE

By **KARIN WILLE**

As I write this, spring is finally in the air and the Sesquicentennial Soiree is just around the corner.

Four hundred and thirty-five of us are looking forward to being together on April 18 at the beautiful McNamara Center at the University of Minnesota. We'll mingle during a festive cocktail hour with music provided by John Jensen, dine with our friends, reflect on the words of the Rev. Dr. Lee Barker as "The Last Living Universalist Tells All," and sing our very own Sesquicentennial song with Ann Reed. Best of all, we'll enjoy ourselves — enjoy being together, enjoy this important milestone in the life of our community, enjoy this special "in between" moment — looking back at our nearly 150 years as a congregation, looking forward to what the next 150 years will be.

As Kate suggested, there will be two empty chairs at the Soiree. One will honor those church members who have gone before us, on whose shoulders we stand. One will be for "those we may never see, the ones for whom we labor, the ones who'll seek and find us in the next decade and the next and the next." May we be

particularly mindful, during this year of celebration leading to up to our actual anniversary, that our labor is "for today, and for times we shall never see."

LONG TERM MEMBERS, SAVE THE DATE

Our next Sesquicentennial event will be held on Saturday, May 30. This special Sesquicentennial luncheon will honor long term members of the congregation who joined 25 or more years ago. Rev. John Cummins, Minister Emeritus, will be the keynote speaker. The event will be held midday in our former church at 5000 Girard. Only members since 1984 or earlier are invited — please watch for an invitation in the mail! Newer members, please sign up to help AUW host this event honoring our faithful leaders. We need volunteers to drive, set up, serve, and clean up. FFI: Jenny Thomas jjthomas@skypoint.com or Carol Johnson at 612-825-3322.

Go Green! Raffle - Less is MORE

You could win this:



40+ MPG
2009 Toyota Prius

Or this:



100+ MPG
2009 Honda
Metropolitan Scooter

Or this:



∞ MPG
2009 Trek Valencia
Bicycle

For this:



Cheap!

Drawing June 7, 2009 12:30 p.m.

(Need not be present to win.)

Tickets Available from your friendly ticket sellers in the Social Hall or church office!

The Welcome Table

Invitation to Potential Members

Join us for our introduction to First Universalist and UUism: **Pathways to Membership** on **May 16**. You are expected to attend this class before becoming a member of the church. Call the church office to sign up.

Steps to Membership

(for anyone age 14 or older)

1. **What We're About**— overview of what UUs believe and what makes us different from other denominations. Especially for visitors. Third Sunday of every month following each service (30-45 min).
2. **Pathways to Membership**— required class before becoming a member. Next date: May 16.
3. **Application for Membership** - submitted to the Board for approval.
4. **New Member Welcome Ceremony**—individuals and families are welcomed during a church service and at a cake reception following. The next ceremony is May 31.
5. **Foundations of Our Faith**— a new monthly class with lunch for new members.
6. **New Member Family Potlucks**— four potluck dinners during the year after joining. The next potluck will be lunch on Sunday, May 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Foundations of Our Faith

New members are invited to join the Foundations of Our Faith group for one year. This group meets

monthly for lunch and topical conversation, meant to deepen your understanding of UUism and your membership at First Universalist. You must sign up to participate in this class, please call Sandy in the church office 612-825-1701.

Dates and topics for 2009:

May 3: Faith in Action

June - August: Summer Break

September 13: What is Spirituality for UUs?

Lifespan Faith Development

UU Identity, Ethical Development, and Spiritual Practice for All Ages

Flower Communion: Origins and Symbolism

The Rev. Dr. Norbert Capek (1870-1942) created the first Flower Communion Service. Along with his wife Maja, he founded the Unitarian Church of Czechoslovakia. In 1923, many Unitarian churches still celebrated communion with bread and wine. Capek felt his congregation needed a ritual that would bind people closely together while not alienating those who had forsaken other religious traditions. In this spirit we celebrate Flower Communion. The flowers represent each person, unique and free, joining together in fellowship and accepting each other regardless of their differences. For some, the ritual has greater significance knowing that Norbert Capek died in a Nazi concentration

camp for defending religious freedom and resisting Hitler. Today, UU churches all over the world celebrate Flower Communion.

Please join us, May 31, at 10:00 a.m. for this multigenerational service. It will give greater meaning to our service if you remember to bring a flower from your own yard or purchase one that speaks to your uniqueness. By exchanging flowers, we show our willingness to walk together in our search for truth, disregarding all that might divide us.

Teacher Appreciation Brunch May 17

All RE teachers, youth advisors, and Coming of Age mentors are invited to a brunch on May 17 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Community volunteers to provide pastries, bagels, and juice are needed. Servers, set up, and clean up help is also needed. Look for the RE table in the Social Hall starting May 3 to sign up to help.

Registration for 2009-2010 Religious Education Begins May 3

This year there is an added incentive to register early - **an "early bird" discount!** Families will save \$10 per child if they register by June 30. Don't miss out on the savings! By registering early, you will also help us prepare the right amount of materials; recruit the correct number of teachers and advisors, and it will allow us more time to process the

forms and get to know new families.

First Universalist has an excellent RE program for children of all ages. Don't miss your chance to get your child involved with this program! Look for the registration table in the Social Hall in May, or watch your mail for your family's registration form in June.

Children's Program (for ages 0-6th grade)

Summer RE begins June 14

Join us Summer Sundays, beginning June 14, for summer RE for preschoolers and elementary aged kids. Preschoolers will go on a "Global Adventure" learning stories and celebrating the culture of people around the world. Grade schoolers will focus on the seventh principle — how the earth and all of its creatures are connected. Teens and parents — keep your eyes open for emails about fun social events to keep us connected over the summer.

There will be no RE on July 5. Summer RE ends August 16, but remember to join us for the Lake Harriet Service, followed by an all-church picnic, on August 23!

Book group for Parents of Boys

Raising spiritually healthy boys can be a challenge. Boys and girls have different needs. If you're interested in talking with other parents of boys about spiritual issues, we invite you to read the book, *Losers, Loners, and Rebels: The Spiritual Struggles of Boys* by Dykstra, Cole, and Capps. Then, join with Siri Anderson, Heidi Mastrud, and other First Universalist parents to discuss what you've read at nearby Painter

Park on May 31 at 11:30 a.m. Pack a picnic for the kids and let them play while you make meaningful connections with other First Universalist parents of boys. Interested? Contact Heidi Mastrud at heidi@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701 x124.

Youth Program (for Grades 7-12)

The Coming of Age Ceremony is for Everyone

Every year, our 9th grade "Coming of Age" (COA) class presents individual snapshots of their spiritual beliefs before their friends, family, and mentors at a special Wednesday evening event. This year the COA class will share their spiritual statements with us on May 20 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Afterwards everyone is invited to a dessert potluck in the Social Hall. The ceremony is a rite of passage that should be shared with everyone in the congregation. Even if you don't have a child in the COA program, we encourage you to attend you will be amazed and touched by the variety of ways the youth choose to share their spirituality with us.

Adult Faith Development Opportunities

Information about our Adult Faith Development Opportunity: "Foundations of Our Faith" can be found under The Welcome Table section.

Contemplative Group: An Experiment in Spiritual Practice

Rev. Kate Tucker, facilitator
ktucker@firstuniv.org, x103

On 2nd and 4th Thursdays we'll meet to practice simple modes of meditation, contemplation, and centering silence. All are welcome. Chancel Room, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Coming of Age for Adults

On Wednesday, May 20, the 9th graders who participated in the Coming of Age program will be sharing their spiritual statements. Anyone who's ever attended this celebration knows the depth of their response to questions around religion and spirituality. Invariably, adults protest that they never had a chance to participate in Coming of Age. Well, here's your chance! We're putting together a group of adults to walk through the Coming of Age experience on six Sundays this summer, eventually preparing and presenting their own spiritual statements to the community. This class will be meaningful for anyone — new member, or seasoned UU. If you are interested in signing up for the group that will meet from 11:15-12:45 on Sundays, July 5-August 9, please contact Heidi Mastrud, Director of Lifespan Faith Development at heidi@firstuniv.org or x124.

Unity Leadership Mother's Day Plant Sale

Sunday, May 10
9:00 - 1:00 Chalice Room
**Your purchase
enables over 25 youth
to learn about
leadership and act to
create social change.**



Project Homeless Connect Needs Volunteers

Project Homeless Connect is a one-stop-shop to help our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness connect with services they need. On Monday, May 1 — from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Hennepin County and the city of Minneapolis are partnering with service providers, businesses, citizens, and faith communities to bring multiple resources to the Minneapolis Convention Center including housing providers, employment specialists, medical care, mental health care, veterans benefits specialists, eye doctors, haircuts, and food.

Please consider volunteering at Project Homeless Connect at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Monday, May 1. We need 1300 volunteers and we do provide training. To find out how you can volunteer or contribute, please go to our website: www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org. Thank you.

Less Choices, More Action

So many options to make your Green Sanctuary! You choose which ones to focus on over the next 2 years. Simply fill out a quick

survey in the Social Hall at the EcoMinds table or find it out online at the church website. We need your input by May 3. The results of the survey will guide the Green Sanctuary Committee in creating an action plan to reduce our global footprint. Receive a free cloth bag for filling out the survey. For more information or to get involved in this action packed committee contact Jean Buckley (jbuckley@ci.bloomington.mn.us) or Cecelia Newton (newton.cecelia@gmail.com).

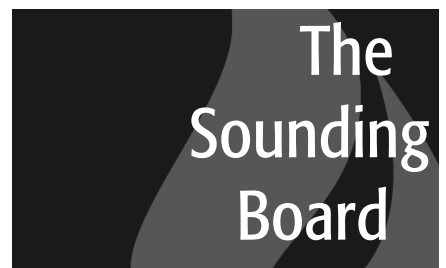
General Assembly

Our own Jenny Thomas and the AUW/MUUSJA Voter Rights campaign will be offering a workshop at G.A. this year in Salt Lake City: *Does Touchscreen Voting Violate the 5th Principle?* The workshop will be Saturday at 5:15 pm. and will feature a former Utah elections official. Workshop slots at G.A. are a rare commodity, and MUUSJA congratulates the Voter Rights team and urges First Universalist members and friends to attend! Mark Ritchie will also be presenting at a GA workshop, along with California's UU Secretary of State Debra Bowen in a UUA sponsored workshop on Friday evening. G.A. is June 24-28, 2009. GA info & registration: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>

Twin Cities Pride

White Bear UU is inviting UUs from across Minnesota to join them in their Pride Parade slot this June 28. MUUSJA's UUs Out 4 Marriage is coordinating with White Bear to turn out lots of us UUs to this annual event so that we can

celebrate Marriage Equality in Iowa & Vermont and proudly proclaim our message of love and hope for equality in Minnesota. We are working with a theme of "UUs: proudly marrying all loving couples!" There is a possibility that we may enter a float in the parade, too! FFI visit www.muusja.org/uuo4m or Ralph: 612-998-6624 or ralph@muusja.org. UU04M meets May 4, and the first Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. at Unity Unitarian, 732 Holly in St. Paul.



By John Jensen

Please mark May 9 on your musical calendars: this will be the final jazz band appearance — also a free-will offering concert to benefit the music program. The concert will feature Nancy Harms, vocalist and our new pianist, Paul Hjelmstad. There will also be small group offerings by the Usual Suspects. We know a lot of you enjoy swing music — this will feature music made famous by Ellington, Basie, the late Neal Hefti, and others. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sundays:

May 3: First Universalist Choir and JJ with classical keyboard offerings

May 10: Universal Folk Band

May 17: First Universalist Choir

May 24: TBA

May 31: Flower Communion w/ Universal Folk Band also Intergenerational Choir.

OUR MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA ROOTS

by Paul Riedesel, Ph.D.

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Article #13 in a special 150th anniversary series

www.firstuniv150.org



Among the important area institutions that intersected at its founding with our church was the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra (renamed the Minnesota Orchestra in 1968). The node connecting the two organizations was the musician Emil Johann Oberhoffer. He assumed the orchestra's podium when it was founded in 1903, at which time he was also our organist.

Oberhoffer was born into a family of musicians near Munich on August 10, 1867. He received extensive musical training in Europe before coming to the United States in the mid-1880s as a still very young man. According to the story, he and his wife were part of a touring Gilbert and Sullivan troupe that was stranded in Saint Paul. In any case, he soon made a mark for himself as a conductor, violinist, composer, pianist and organist. Oberhoffer served as organist and choirmaster of the church of St. John the Evangelist (Episcopal) in Saint Paul in the 1890s, and was in demand as a freelance choral conductor at the same time.



Emil Oberhoffer
(Courtesy Minnesota
Orchestra)

The records of our congregation are mute as to when he came to work for what was known then as our own Church of the Redeemer. When Dr. Marion Shutter preached Oberhoffer's funeral service in 1933, he alluded to "nearly a decade" of service at the organ. Since Oberhoffer resigned during the 1907-1908 church year, he would have begun around the turn of the century.

Music was a high priority for our church at that time. During the 1907-1908 church year, for instance, payments to the organist and choir amounted to almost a quarter of the total revenue of \$11,282. In today's dollars, that would be over \$50,000 for music. It is likely that the part-time organist (Oberhoffer) received at least \$1,500 of this sum. Four paid singers constituted the choir.

After leading the Apollo Club and the Schubert Choral Association and Orchestra, he was tapped in 1901 to be the conductor of the Minneapolis Philharmonic Club. All of these were choral music associations that mounted occasional concerts with what we would call pick-up orchestras. One of the leading lights in and supporters of the Philharmonic Club was lumberman Elbert L. Carpenter (1862-1945).

The Philharmonic Club, led by Carpenter, gave birth to the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, and Oberhoffer was on track to become the first conductor of only the eighth major orchestra in the United States. Fifty parties signed on as guarantors of the undertaking. Each agreed to contribute up to \$200 as needed in case of a deficit against the proposed first year budget of \$16,000.

The signatories are a Who's Who of the upper crust of Minneapolis in 1903, but only two were identifiable members of First Universalist. One was Thomas Lowry (1843-1909), best known as the "father" of the Minneapolis streetcar system. Lowry served as a trustee of the church for many years. The second was George H. Partridge (1856-1932). He was also a trustee, a member of the music committee in Oberhoffer's time, and a partner in Wyman, Partridge and Company, a dry goods wholesaler. He was a long-serving Regent of the University of Minnesota (1914-1931). Partridge was also active in the Minneapolis Citizens Alliance, which was dedicated to combating union organization by any means.

Oberhoffer presided over the successful establishment of the orchestra as an artistically respectable and financially viable organization. In 1907, the Orchestral Association of Minnesota was incorporated, taking over from the Philharmonic Club. Elbert Carpenter was the first President of the Board and would hold this position for 40 years. Anyone willing to contribute \$100 annually (equivalent to around \$2,000 today) could be on the Board. None of the 15 charter Board members are recognizable as Universalists, but George Partridge joined later and helped elevate the annual guaranty fund to around \$2.5 million in today's dollars. No doubt the success and demands of the orchestra contributed to Oberhoffer's decision to resign his church position in 1907-1908.



By 1922, differences with chairman Carpenter reached a breaking point and Oberhoffer stepped down as conductor. After a sold-out last performance, he never conducted the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra again, though he was in demand as a guest conductor of other major orchestras.

There would have been a symphony orchestra in Minneapolis sooner or later with or without a large and then-wealthy Universalist congregation, but two of our members did step forward to underwrite the enterprise, and we owe them some gratitude. We may also take pride in having had the talents of Emil Oberhoffer in our employ at the same time he was molding the first edition of what is now a world-renowned ensemble.

TIDBITS OF MUSIC HISTORY AT FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

BY MARIE NORDBERG

- ❖ When our first building was completed in 1866 at 5th Street and 4th Avenue S., it included the first complete church organ in Minneapolis. It was a gift of W.D. Washburn, a member of the family that created what is now General Mills. He was a member of our board of trustees for 50 years.
- ❖ Barbara Whipple, who joined the choir in 1953, is still an active member of First Universalist.
- ❖ In 1965, the congregation purchased 200 hymnals for \$4 each.
- ❖ Long-time member Janet Chandler, who sang in the choir from the 1960s until we moved to our present building in 1993, fondly remembers pianist Eileen Reagan, who, Janet says, outlasted at least a few choir directors. "She had a beautiful and elegant touch that we all admired," says Janet. She also recalls director Jim Hart, who introduced the choir to a lively new type of music, including Scott Joplin's "Treemonisha." During his tenure, she says, the choir appeared one Saturday evening on "A Prairie Home Companion."
- ❖ The next director, says Janet, was Jim Reilly, who preferred more esoteric and subdued music. "He wanted to support new composers, and convinced the music committee to commission two compositions for the choir. My recollection is that they were quite difficult to sing. One of the composers was Libby Larsen, who has become prominent on the local music scene."
- ❖ Moving to more recent years, in May 1992 John Jensen came to First Universalist as pianist. In 1996 he became director of music, following the departure of David Livingston. In September 1996 Janice Hunton became choral director, and continues in that capacity. Together, Janice, John and Mary Bohman have built an amazing music program that includes adult and children's choirs, the Universal Jazz Band, the Universal Folk Band, the Universal Rock Band and an assortment of musically talented individuals too numerous to mention. Many church members say the music program is what drew them to First Universalist Church.

Shared Interest Groups

AUW Events

Friday Get Connected, May 1:
"Rain Gardens & Compost Heaps"
with "Green Queen" Jean Buckley

Call to Annual Meeting

Women of First Universalist Church are warmly invited to attend "Connect, Honor, Elect!" — AUW's Year-End Potluck Gathering & Annual Meeting on Friday evening, May 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Chalice Room. This is our chance to connect and break bread with friends, both new and old, before the church year ends. As we did last year, we'll alternate business items like the election of new board members and endorsement of a bylaw revision with informal dialogue and entertainment by Spices, the amazing **a cappella** women's group. We'll also honor the work we've done together and pay tribute to the Rev. Charlotte Cowtan and others for their special contributions. Bring a dish to share and come join the fun!

Women Who Read

Women Who Read (and eat potluck suppers together) meet in a casual manner on the fourth Monday of the month. New members are always welcome. Please RSVP to the host and get directions.

May 18, **The Turtle Warrior**,

by Mary Relindes Ellis.
HOSTS: Kathy Urberg and Mary Johnson at Church,
RSVP: 612-929-0273,
Kathy_urberg@wayne.edu

First Universalist Big Band

The "big band" of First Universalist Church, **Universal Jazz**, will hold its Spring Concert on May 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary, 3400 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis. The concert features Nancy Harms, vocalist, and music by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Richard Rodgers. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the church's music program.

ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF THE MN MEMORIAL SOCIETY

The Minnesota Memorial Society has reformed and is now known as The Twin Cities Cremation Society. A meeting is being called for Wednesday, May 27 at 1:30 p.m. at The First Unitarian Society, 900 Mt. Curve Ave. Minneapolis Telephone 612-377-6608 The purpose of this meeting is to inform you of TCCS services, to update your records and to answer questions which you may have. The Director of the TCCS, Bob McAdams, who now provides the services, will be present.

Please call the number above to inform the FUS office if you plan to attend. Feel free to send a family member if necessary.

Visual Arts Exhibit

Creation: Variations on a
Theme of Wonder

The exhibit of art by Cheryl Anderson continues in the social hall through May 24. Her art is inspired by photographs taken by the Hubble Deep Space Telescope and express her feelings of wonder upon seeing them. "During our lifetime we have learned so many amazing things about the vastness and complexity of the universe. I find it easier to express my awe through art than through words."

Take a look at her art and think about how you express your reactions to things of wonder.

Volunteering in Africa & Safari, too!

May 17, 12:15 p.m.,
Cummins Room

Rick and Sharon Slettehaug recently spent two months with Minnesota International Health Volunteers working in Tanzania. Since many people have asked about the experience, they will discuss the program, what they did and show pictures of the amazing staff, wonderful people they met in remote villages and the wildlife parks they visited on weekends. Karatu, where they were based, is in the heart of safari country and very close to the best wildlife viewing in all of East Africa. You can do the same! Information will be provided on this and other opportunities to volunteer abroad. Join them in the Cummins Room after the second service. Treats will be provided. Rick or Sharon Slettehaug 651-690-2412.

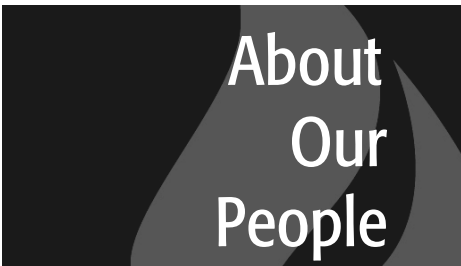
Coming Soon! "Families for Fun & Congenial Adults"

What is it? Beginning in June, there will be an ongoing monthly intergenerational participatory social group comprised of church families and friends, whose sole purpose is to have fun.

No classes! No committees!
No ongoing commitments!

Watch the Liberal and the R. E. source for further details.

Dinah Patrykus,
Membership Committee



Please Note: announcements written April 12 or earlier:

Congratulations to **Bill Elwood** who was elected treasurer of Prairie Star District at the PSD meeting in Duluth on Saturday April 4.

Andrea Johnson and David Fry are happy to report that **Catherine Anne Johnson-Fry**, was born March 9 at 8:18 p.m., arriving at 7 lbs 15 oz, 21 ½ inches long. All is well

We remember **Cindy Ahlberg** who was been diagnosed with breast cancer in March.

We remember **Tracy Jones** who had knee surgery in March.

Karen Kellogg Lahteine died unexpectedly on March 16. **Karen** was the birthmother of **Bob Alberti**, mother-in-law to **Theresa Alberti**, and "Fairy Grandma" to **Leo, Gennie and Dante Alberti**. Bob found Karen in 1993 after a long search, and the

whole family was blessed by having a close and loving relationship with Karen, who had lived most of her life on Cape Cod, and had recently moved from Tennessee to Iowa.

Gertrude Mealey, age 89, mother of **Mary Melia**, suffered a heart attack and is now in hospice care.

Mary Helmin sends a thank you, with much love and gratitude, to the pastoral care committee, and all the wonderful people who have been so generous in their care and concern over the past year, since her accident. She would especially like to thank the brigade of folks who washed dishes, cooked food and swept floors for her these past few months. She is happy to report her shoulder is doing well enough that she has resumed those tasks herself!

Ginnie Risch of San Diego, step-mother of **Ann Risch (George Boody)**, grandmother of **Dan Boody and Ellen Risch-Boody**, passed away unexpectedly March 18.

Mary Melia's mother **Gertrude Baker Mealey**, age 89, died peacefully at home on March 25, 9 months after the death of Mary's dad and 17 months after the death of her brother.

Dave Arnold's mother, **Marion Arnold**, died on Saturday, March 28, at age 94 in Watertown, Wisconsin. A memorial service is being planned.

Marion had lived for many years in an assisted living home of twenty residents and she had recently received hospice care within the same setting.

Donna Sheehan, age 78, mother of **Dan Sheehan**, mother-in-law to **Sarah** and grandmother to **Molly and Carter Sheehan**, died of an embolism. Her entire family was with her at the hospital.

Julie and Bill Howard are delighted to share the news that their newest grandchild, **Bryce William Howard**, entered the world March 24. He joins his big sister Elena who wants to give

him hugs and kisses non-stop and parents Dan and Louise Howard.

The Unitarian Universalist Prairie Star District awarded First Universalist member **Carol Jackson** the Betty Gorshe Heritage Award at its annual conference in Duluth on April 5, 2009. The award is presented to individuals "who have made significant contributions to preserving, understanding and celebrating the Unitarian Universalist heritage." Carol Jackson is one of the key members of the committee planning this church's sesquicentennial celebration. She is very instrumental in helping to sustain, organize, and communicate our rich history to others. Along with Betty Gorshe, she gave shape to the Prairie Star District Heritage and Archives Committee, making the PSD one of the Unitarian Universalist Association districts often praised for UU history initiatives.

Mildred Cooper, member (with husband Woodrow) of this church in the 1950's, died Saturday at age 91. A memorial service was held at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church on Friday, April 3. Mildred's daughters, **Kathleen, Patricia, and Lois**, fondly remember the Carl Olson years and the church on Girard Ave.

John Yoakam was hospitalized at Abbott Northwestern last week for treatment of complications from his cancer. On Friday John began hospice care at home. We hold **John and his partner Gary Gimmestad** in our hearts.

Jan Saxhaug, son of John Saxhaug and Lyn Rabinovitch, was deployed to Iraq in January. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan, his family, others serving in Iraq (including Lewis Bishop) and Afghanistan, and the people of those nations.

On April 13, **Lewis Bishop** will leave the USA for Kuwait, then 2-3 weeks later he'll arrive in Basra, Iraq, where he will be stationed.

Calendar of Events May 1-31

available online at:
www.firstuniv.org/calendar.html

~Denotes an event to which more info can be found in this issue of The Liber

*Event is closed.

Friday, May 1

Candidating Week
9:30 a.m. Convo. w/ New Minister
4:00 p.m. Support Group
6:30 p.m. Wheel of the Year
6:30 p.m. AUW potluck/discussion:
"Rain Gardens and Compost Heaps"

Saturday, May 2

Candidating Week
8:30 a.m. Bagels with New Minister

Sunday, May 3

Last Day of Candidating Week and
Approval Voting today
Services & RE at 9 and 11 a.m.
10:00 a.m. Parents of Teens Group
10:00 a.m. Comfort Shawl Group
12:15 p.m. Foundations of Our Faith

Monday, May 4

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Caregivers Support Group
7:00 p.m. UU Stitchers
7:30 p.m. Young Adult OWL

Tuesday, May 5

6:30 p.m. Open Labyrinth
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Men's Support Group*

Wednesday, May 6

12:30 p.m. SPIFF Meeting
6:30 p.m. Senior High ARC

Thursday, May 7

No Church Events Scheduled

Friday, May 8

4:00 p.m. Support Group
6:00 p.m. Drumming

Saturday, May 9

Unity Leadership Plant Sale
8:45 a.m. AUW Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Women's Ritual Circle*
7:30 p.m. First Universalist Big Jazz

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day & Child Dedication
Services & RE at 9 and 11 a.m.
Unity Leadership Plant Sale

Monday, May 11

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Visual Arts
7:30 p.m. Young Adult OWL

Tuesday, May 12

4:30 p.m. Green Sanc. Meeting
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 13

7:00 p.m. 150th Communications
7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee

Thursday, May 14

9:00 a.m. Liberal Assembly Group
5:00 p.m. Contemplative Group
5:30 p.m. Executive Committee
7:00 p.m. 09-10 Budget Hearings
7:00 p.m. Young Adults Group
7:00 p.m. Lifespan Children Comm

Friday, May 15

4:00 p.m. Support Group

Saturday, May 16

8:00 a.m. Unity Leadership Training
9:00 a.m. Pathway to Membership

Sunday, May 17

09-10 Budget Hearing after
Both Services
Last Sunday of 2 Services
Services & RE at 9 and 11 a.m.
Sharing Sunday & What We're About
8:00 a.m. RE Teacher Brunch
12:15 p.m. Volunteering in Africa
12:30 p.m. New Member Family
Potluck

Monday, May 18

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Caregivers Support Group
7:00 p.m. UU Stitchers
7:00 p.m. Women Who Read

Tuesday, May 19

6:30 p.m. COA Ceremony
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Library Committee
7:00 p.m. Men's Support Group*

Wednesday, May 20

7:00 p.m. 150th Steering Comm.

Thursday, May 21

6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

Friday, May 22

4:00 p.m. Support Group
6:00 p.m. Drumming

Saturday, May 23

No Church Events Scheduled

Sunday, May 24

No RE, No Nursery
One Service Only at 10:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Women's Ritual Circle

Monday, May 25

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal

Tuesday, May 26

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:00 p.m. Open to Everyone
Meet the New Minister
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 27

No Church Events Scheduled

Thursday, May 28

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Group
7:00 p.m. Young Adult Group
7:00 p.m. Foundation Committee

Friday, May 29

4:00 p.m. Support Group

Saturday, May 30

9:30 a.m. AUW Reproductive Right

Sunday, May 31

Flower Communion
New Member Welcoming Ceremony
11:00 a.m. Children's Choir
End of the Year Party

First Universalist Church Is Served By:

Interim Minister

The Reverend Charlotte Cowtan x102

Associate Minister

The Reverend Kate Tucker x103

Minister Emeritus

The Reverend John Cummins

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Heidi Mastrud x124

Youth and Young Adult

Ministry Coordinator

Katie Heaton x109

Children's Program Coordinator/ Children's Music Coordinator

Mary Bohman x111

Lifespan Administrative Assistant

Katie Campbell x107

Director of Faith in Action

Debra Rodgers x106

Director of Administration

Patti Frazee x104

Member and Facilities Coordinator

Chrystal Teachout x100

Communications Coordinator

Kevin Watson x110

Office Support

Sandy DiNanni x125

Music Director

John Jensen

Choral Director

Janice Hunton

Hospitality Custodian

Frank Bibber

Cleaning Custodian

Mike Higgins

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, May 3

Congregational Vote on
New Senior Minister
Candidate Justin Schroeder

May 9 - May 10

Unity Leadership Plant Sale

Thursday, May 14 & Sunday, May 17

09-10 Budget Hearings

Sunday, May 24

Start of Summer Single
10 a.m. Services

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday Closed

Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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