



The Flint Unitarian Universalist

vol. 30, No. 1 January 2010

"A Beacon of Love and Acceptance in Mid-Michigan"

Worship Service and Religious Education Classes
begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays

Sunday Services

January 3 - The Right Time

What are your hopes for the New Year? What risks are you willing to take to bring them into being? Reflections upon this special moment in time. Worship Associate: June Urdy

January 10

Carrie Hoffman and the Search Committee will discuss the Cottage Meetings.

January 17

Dean Drake will conduct a lay service on a topic of interest. Worship Associate: Joan Smalley

January 24 - He Had a Dream

Reflections on the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Associate: Sheila Smith

January 31 - The Zen of Unitarian Universalism

We will explore some of the insights many Unitarian Universalists have drawn from Zen Buddhism. Koans, stories and points of convergence between Zen and Unitarian Universalism. Worship Associate: Thorpe Saxton

Ministers

The Congregation &
Rev. Shirley Ranck

Director of Lifespan Learning

Amy Peterson Derrick

Music Director

Pia Broden-Williams

Building & Communication Mgr

Cheryl Craig

Moderator

June Urdy

Treasurer

Jason Galvas

Secretary

Bob Brown

Justice & Communications

Ann Giese

Worship & Music

Christine Monk

Lifespan Learning

Sheila Smith

Membership & Red Carpet

Rose Klein

Operations & Finance

Dr. Van Winkle

Fundraising

Bob Barnett

Newsletter

Nvama Marsh



Shirley's Cauldron

Are you a frequent visitor to our church, or a new member? Do you wonder how to get better acquainted or how to get involved? The answer lies in one word: Committees. It is our committees that make things happen. Before you assume that means lots of boring meetings, let me share with you some thoughts by Rev. Tracy Robinson-Harris on committees.

She writes:

"When I think 'committee,' I think teamwork--a small group of people gathered around a common task, exchange of ideas, the give and take of creative planning, fun and work going hand in hand...

"When I think 'committee,' I think community--people greeting one another and getting to know one another, people engaged in the give and take of creativity, people contributing to the soul-growing in which all of us are engaged. Sharing refreshments. Welcoming the newcomer. Changing our minds. Holding our own. Laughing together.

"When I think 'committee,' I see small gatherings, each with its own agenda, each in its own way giving the breath of life and the energy of action to our ministry together."

We have many committees here at our church. Some need people with special skills and talents but all need people willing to commit their time and energy and have great fun making special things happen in this special place. If you are not already involved in committee work, please consider it. Speak to me or any member of the Board when you are ready to get involved and we'll find exactly the right committee for you!

Blessed be!
Shirley

Minister's Office Hours

Interim Minister, Rev. Shirley Ranck has office hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Other hours are available by appointment. Please see the Order of Service for Rev. Ranck's phone number.

Second Sunday Donation

On December 13, 2009, in honor of World AID's Day, we collected \$524.00 for Wellness HIV/AIDS Services. This will be a big help for their clients who need a variety of services. Thank you for your ever ready generous spirit.

Next month on January 10, we will collect for ourselves. It has been several years since we sent anyone to Leadership School in Beloit, Wisconsin in July. Our church needs a base of \$500. in order to enroll 2 or 3 people. This usually gets cut in our budget each year, so we thought we would take a collection in order to send some folks in 2010.

This week-long school is a wonderful experience for people who are interested in leadership or who are already in leadership positions and want some reinforcement. Four of us attended in 1987, and three of us are still active in this church (Ruth Straw, David Handwerker, and Marion Van Winkle). We have always agreed on how much it helped us to take an active part in the church leadership. So, let's see if we can raise the \$500, and also think about whether or not you would like to be one of the persons who will be a participant in the school.

Marion Van Winkle for Social Justice and Outreach

NESK Angel Gift Giving Program

Thanks to all who participated in the NESK Angel Gift Giving Program. UUCF members and friends contributed ...

- holiday gifts for 32 children
- 30 pairs of adult socks
- 2 bath size towels
- 2 men's sweaters
- 6 knit caps
- 2 boxes of non-perishable food items
- 3 shopping bags full of assorted personal size toiletries, hairbrushes and toothbrushes

Thanks again for your generosity. Peace, Sue Kirby

Christmas Eve Soup Social Thanx

Pat Nilsson Volunteered Ham and Pea soup and 2 doz. rolls
Sue Kinsey Volunteered Chicken Noodle soup
Rose Klein Volunteered Bean Soup
Diane Vack Volunteered Turkey Chili
Thorpe Sexton Volunteered Potato Soup
Kent VanCamp Volunteered Vegetable Beef/Turkey Rice Soup
Stephanie Hackney Volunteered Bread and Biscuits
Lucy Mercier Volunteered Homemade Bread
Dolores Brabbs Volunteered Potato Soup
Wyn Handwerker Volunteered Bread

Thanks to all who volunteered to make this a wonderful Christmas Eve Social.

Diane Vack and Rose Klein

Return Of Guest-At-Your-Table Boxes Starts January 10

Guest-at-Your-Table (GAYT), a fundraising activity for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, began on Thanksgiving and continues through New Year's Day. Households taking part in this activity by depositing money in their individual GAYT Boxes at mealtime can return the boxes on Sunday, January 10. A special table will be set up in Fellowship Hall to receive them. Alternatively, boxes may be left in the church office through Sunday, January 31.

Save Saturday Night, February 13, For A Valentine Party

Four of Cupid's helpers (Pam Pinti, Juliet Minard, Ann Marlin, and Mary Lorenz) are planning an evening of food and fun. Their hearts are a-flutter with details yet to be worked out, such as finding a volunteer disc jockey. Love for our congregation definitely will be in the air! What better way to celebrate the accomplishment of our ministerial search committee's cottage conversations?

December Board Notes

Our November Financial Status:

For the month of November the income was \$14,641.85

For the month of November the expense was \$14,153.33

For the month of November the net income for the Church was \$488.52

Year to date the income is \$77,262.00

Year to date the expense is \$85,727.25

Year to date the net income for the Church is \$-8,465.25

The checking account balance as of December 18, 2009 is \$9,234.91 (note - we always want a balance of at least \$9,000)

About a year ago, Citizen's Bank revoked our credit card due to our financial position. Since that time it has become apparent that the day-to-day operation of the Church would be easier if we had a credit card or the like. A debit card has been secured.

Strategic and Financial Planning:

In January the Search Committee's Cottage Conversations will create a future vision for our church. As we move forward to realize that vision we will need to do it in the context of our current financial environment. We balanced the 2009-2010 budget with monies from a one-time bequest. We won't have this \$13,632 option in the next fiscal year. Our state, our community, our congregation is in the middle of incredibly trying economic times. We will need to be especially thoughtful as we build our budget for next year.

Capital Campaign Update:

The Operations Committee has developed a 5 year plan for building and equipment maintenance. Our ongoing capital campaign will need to raise the following estimated amounts:

1. Roof for new building – anytime – c. \$25,000
2. Parking lot repairs – two years – c. \$3,000
3. Parking lot resurfacing – five years – c. \$17,000
4. Painting the whole downstairs – five years – c. \$1,500
5. New carpet after painting – five years – c. \$3,000

6. New stone tiles at the RE entrance – anytime – c. \$3,000
7. Replacing old plumbing pipes for old building – anytime – c. \$10 – 30,000
8. Stain the outside wood – two years – c. \$400
9. Copy Machine - \$8 – 10,000

Announcement of Congregational Meeting:

A Congregational meeting will be held on January 31, 2010 as a mid-year report on our budget, plus a vote to have the Endowment Committee allocate \$5,000 of interest income to the Search Committee for the 2010-2011 budget.

Submitted by Bob Brown
Board Secretary

Weekly Volunteers

First Sunday

Greeters	Charles Thomas Bob Barnett Philip Greenfield Cecelia Terrell
Ushers	Cathy & Dave Frazee
Kitchen	Ann Marlin
Office	Margie Latter
Sound	Thorpe Saxton
Security	Jennifer Howard

Second Sunday

Greeters	Ron Krueger Jessica Hammon Sheila Smith
Ushers	Bonnie Pobocik Ann Giese Todd Bostwick
Kitchen	Rita Short
Office	Howard Schultz
Sound	Dave Handwerker
Security	John Helsom

Third Sunday

Greeters	Audrey Bassett Rose & Don Klein,
Ushers	Brent Smalley Rose Klein
Kitchen	Rita Sol
Office	Gael Edmonds
Sound	Dave Hurt
Security	Dr. Van Winkle

Fourth Sunday

Greeters	Scott Stensaas Brent Smalley Phyllis Stanbury
Ushers	Wyn & Dave Handwerker
Kitchen	Diane Vack
Office	Dorothy Davis
Sound	Karen Olson
Security	Don Klein

Fifth Sunday

Greeters	Chris Monk & Carrie Hoffman
Ushers	Dorothy Davis & Nyama Marsh
Kitchen	Diane Vack
Office	Sara Gordon
Sound	Dave Handwerker
Worship Associate	Chris Monk
Security	Marion Van Winkle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 *Friday Covenant- Cancelled	2
3 *Worship, 10:30 a.m. *Dances of Universal Peace, 1-3 pm	4	5 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:35-8:35 am	6 *Communications meeting, 10:30 am *Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. *Flute Choir, 8 pm	7 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:35-8:35 am *RE Com Mtg 12:30pm *Children's Choir 6:30 pm	8	9
10 *Worship, 10:30 a.m. *Pot Luck Luncheon *PFLAG 2-4:30 pm	11	12 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:35-8:35 am *Finance Committee meeting, 4 pm *Search Committee Cottage meeting, Chapel 6:30-8:30 pm	13 *Operations Committee meeting, 5 pm *Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. *Flute Choir, 8 pm	14 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:35-8:35 am *Worship Committee meeting, 6:30 pm *Children's Choir 6:30 pm	15 *Friday Covenant, 7:30 pm	16 *Board meeting, Fellowship, 10 am
17 *Worship, 10:30 a.m. *FACT LOM, Blackinton, 12:30-3 pm	18 Community Sing, Fellowship Hall, 7 pm	19 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:35-8:35 am	20 *Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. *Flute Choir, 8 pm	21 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:35-8:35 am *Children's Choir 6:30 pm	22	23
24 *Worship, 10:30 a.m. *Search Committee Cottage meeting, 1-3 pm room 1D	25	26 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:35-8:35 am	27 *Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. *Flute Choir, 8 pm	28 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall 7:35-8:35 am *Children's Choir 6:30 pm	29 *Search Committee Cottage meeting, Room 1D 6:30-8:30 pm	30
31 *Worship, 10:30 a.m. *Congregational meeting, 12 pm						