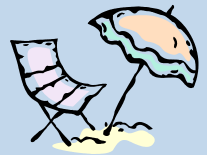


CROSSROADS



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn

June 2011

Summer Lay-Led Service Information:

Please note that summer services begin on Sunday, June 19th in our new Unity Hall at 10:30a.m. While no formal religious education classes will be held, childcare will be provided!

Inside this issue:

REflections	2
Communications	3
Denominational Affairs, An Intern's Journey	4
Up Coming Events & Social Action	5
News	6
Contact Information	7

Minister's Message

By Reverend Nathan Detering

*"Now it is June again, one of those
Leafy Sundays drifting through galaxies of maple seeds.
Somewhere, a mourning dove
Touches her keyboard twice, a lonely F,
Then falls silent.
Love is everywhere. Cars that have all week
Lurched and honked with sour commuters are now
Like smooth canoes packed soft with families.
A church bell strides through the green perfume
Of locust trees and tolls its thankfulness.
The mourning dove, to her astonishment,
Blunders upon a distant call in answer."*

Several years ago, on the first Sunday in June, I shared with us this poem from Ted Kooser. It's called 'Sunday Morning' and for me it captures all that summer means. If you have been around UUAC at First Parish in Sherborn for a while, you know that the summer season ushers in a different rhythm in our congregation's life. Most significantly, our Sunday services are lay-led and shift to a more intimate, informal style down in our new Unity Hall, our religious education program goes on a break, and the staff is given time to recharge our batteries and prepare for the beginning of another church year in September. Please hear this doesn't mean our church is closed for the summer! Think shifting gears rather than shutting down. Erika will be in the office at least one a day week. Katherine will continue sending out weekly emails announcing Sunday services. And, of course, both I and our Lay Pastoral Care Team will be available for pastoral care. Though I won't hold regular office hours during July and part of August, I will check my voicemail and email regularly. Please don't hesitate to check-in.

With love for you, and warm wishes for a wonderful summer.

Nathan

Reflections

Kate Holland, Director of Religious Education

What a wonderful and full spring we have in our Religious education program. On May 10 we had a wonderful celebration and service to open the newly built wing of our church. It was wonderful to have the kids be a part of blessing that wonderful new space that many of our children will use as classroom space on Sunday mornings. We lit a lantern from the chalice in the sanctuary and we all walked through the new rooms to bless them with the light of our community.

We are thrilled that we were a part of the beautiful “Art In Bloom” event that took place on May 15. The kids all did a great job making beautiful art around the theme of joy and all of the floral works were very beautiful. One member of the church pointed out to me that it was so wonderful that the first thing to be displayed on the walls of our new space was art done by the children of our Religious Education program. It truly made my heart soar with pride.

On Saturday May 21, we hosted a workshop with Sally Patton on “Creating Beloved Community for all Children”. It was a wonderful workshop for members of our community as well as a few people from other Unitarian Universalist communities. Sally was kind enough to allow us to tape the workshop and after editing we will have a copy of it in the RE office for all those interested in seeing the workshop. I will include many of the concepts and ideas in Sally’s workshop in the Teacher trainings that I give for our Religious Education program.

Speaking of our Religious Education Program, next year’s registrations have gone out and are now due back to the R.E. office. We are a cooperative religious education program and we can not run our program without the dedication of our volunteer teachers. All teaching positions are given out on a first come first serve basis. So the quicker you return your registration the more likely you are to get your first teaching choice (this includes the 10 year long substitute spots).

I have had a wonderful year of building and change. I look forward to next year and hope that you all have a wonderful summer.

With Gratitude,

Kate

Communications

by Katherine McHugh



THE UUAC CELEBRATES THE JOY OF SPRING WITH ART IN BLOOM... NO MATTER THE WEATHER

On Sunday, May 15th, we as a church were treated to an intergenerational event of joint creativity and joy as the 1st ever *Art in Bloom* event was held here at our church. A big thanks and much gratitude to Cathie Healy (master floral designer extraordinaire), Adult Programs chair Gage Heath, and Religious Educations Director Kate Holland who created and co-sponsored this wonderful experience.

Many talented young artists, from ages 3 to 13, worked in a variety of mediums to provide the artwork to inspire concomitant floral arrangements by a wide age range of adults, with close to 50 artists participating (including the floral arrangers) with 19 final works on display. For two weeks prior, Kate Holland provided the students with a varied supply of art materials to work with, from paint to pencil to Lincoln logs. They were simply asked to express the theme of the exhibit, Joy, in their artwork.

The results were joy-filled for both audience and artist. Cathie and Gage (both talented and experienced gardeners) were delighted by the joy expressed in the happy faces of the children engaged and excited about the finished product, the enthusiasm of each floral designer bringing in their display and what the process had meant to them individually, and the shared conversations between visitor and participant.



- Marianna Heath, a well known horticulturist, gardening expert, and longtime member, age 95, interpreted the work of 7 year old Emma Pawl. Marianna related that she has done many, many flower arrangements over the years but felt more pressure for this one than any other as she wanted to do right by the young person whose art she was interpreting.
- Cathie Healy, whose floral arrangements have been displayed at the MFA's *Art in Bloom* for some years, and who educates on how to stage *Art in Bloom* for local area garden clubs, was encouraged by the men who chose to participate, "I love the fact that three men decided to do this. They did an outstanding job. While none of them had ever done flower arranging, they all expressed a love for flowers. One even walked through a marsh wading in the water to pick his 'cat tails'!"
- Mother and child, as well as husband and wife teams, found the project a great bonding experience. Maureen Gormley and her daughter Arwen, age 8, included marshmallows in their design and then offered a dish of marshmallows for people to take! Susan Rauch worked with her son Spencer and Cris Crawford worked with daughter Cindy Everett.
- Philip Teibel, age 13, loved his interpretation so much he wanted to buy it. Of course, the generous Gage gave it to him. In response his mom, Pam Teibel, felt inspired to make a donation to the Minister's discretionary fund!
- Cathie and Gage were inspired to create this special day after attending *Floral in Winter* at Tower Hill in Boylston and at the Worcester Art Museum. In addition, Cathie and her Holliston Garden Club had taken art work from the elementary, middle, and high schools, along with local town artists and seniors, and interpreted these pieces with floral displays in the town library. They both thought, "Why not take this idea to the church?"
- Cathie is currently assembling a book of the event for posterity and for ideas for the future.



Continued from page 3

This labor of love involved many members of our church. In addition to the children and adult members of the church who participated in the creative process, there were many folks behind the scenes, mounting artwork, laminating photos of the sculptures that were included in the event, and hanging paintings. **Adult Programs chair Gage Heath commented, "This is perhaps the most noticeable effort yet at taking a multi-generational approach to what we do together as a church"**

The new spaces recently dedicated on April 10th were all utilized and visitors were able to roam the halls of the new addition to discover new and unexpected delights. Directors of the project, which included members of the Adult Programs and Religious Education Committees, wanted to use as many spaces as they could in the church and they succeeded! This was the first and what the UUAC hopes will become a rewarding and FUN tradition of the church.

The original Art in Bloom began at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston 30 years ago as a creative attempt to bring new people into the museum who may not have necessarily visited before. At the same time, it gave new artists (whose medium was flowers) a chance to display their talents. It has been so successful that many museums across the country have copied the idea (as have garden clubs and local artist guilds who have implemented it in their own communities).



Denominational Affairs

Human Right to Water in California

With so many stories of too much water in the news, we must be reminded that many people do not have access to a clean water supply.

In April the Human Right to Water Bill (AB685) passed handily out of the California Water Parks & Wildlife Committee. Four additional bills in the package from the Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee also passed. California legislators were very impressed by the testimony given by advocates from all segments of California's citizenry. Included were Rev. Lindi Ramsden of the UU Legislative Ministry of CA and Shelley Moskowitz of the UU Service Committee.

UUSC Pres. and CEO Bill Schulz commented, "Although the committee's approval is just the beginning of the legislative process, it is a major first step that signals ever growing support for a human-right-to-water law in California. As we have seen on many occasions, what happens in California can have a dramatic ripple effect in states across the country".

The UUSC website contains additional information regarding what positive legislative passage of these bills will mean for California.

Submitted By Jill Carroll

An Intern's Journey

Kate Landis

This week I am moving, from Newton to Northborough. As Jay and I shuffled my motley collection of spindly potted plants around our new house I noticed that one, a potted Gerber daisy that refuses to boom, shifted it's direction each time it was moved. No matter the window, the leaves kept rearranging to lift toward the sunlight.

This shouldn't be a surprise to me- plants eat sunlight like we eat food, it makes sense that the green leaves would reach toward a hearty meal. But it was the tenacity of these leaves that surprised me. Stuffed into the backseat of Jay's car, mashed between tall brown boxes, the leaves shifted to find the sun. Left for a few hours on the porch in the early evening light, they slid into the most sunlight they could find. Finally situated in the living room, the leaves danced into a new stretch. Despite jostling and periods of darkness, my sickly-looking Gerber didn't give up- it kept searching for the light, and reaching it's body to take in as much sun as possible.

Do you rearrange yourself to grab as much sunlight as possible? What would it look like if you stretched toward the light? It could be as simple as cutting yourself some slack on a diet slip-up or as complicated as removing a person from your life who blocks you from getting any sun. What stands between you and happiness? Which of those obstacles can be removed? Which can be stretched around?

In the beautiful month of June that lies just in front of us, I hope we all can stretch toward the sunlight, basking in the happiness that can fill our lives if only we reorient towards it. What can you do today to bring light into your life?

Social Action

1500 Acts to End Hunger, 2011

With summer fast approaching, please remember that donations to A Place to Turn, the emergency food pantry that services the metrowest area, are still needed. With those lazy hazy days of summer, it is easy to get out of the habit of contributing, but please know that the need continues, especially with the cessation of school lunch programs. If you are going by the church during our summer office hours will be Tuesday 8:00am-1:00pm and Thursday 11:00am-4:00pm, GANS hours on Wednesday, or coming to a summer service Sunday morning, please bring an item or two for A Place to Turn. It is so needed and so appreciated. Many thanks from the Social Action Committee. **Suggested items: juice, snacks (cookies, crackers), peanut butter & Jelly, pasta**

Book Donations for Global Education - Update



Did you know that our church has donated thousands of used books to promote literacy and education worldwide? In November 2007 we installed the **bright blue book collection bin in the back of the north parking lot.** The UUAC is

working with the non-profit organization Reading Tree (<http://www.readingtree.org>) to help them in their mission to collect used, unwanted books and provide them to needy schools, libraries, and other community-based organizations. Recent donations have gone locally to Woodrow Wilson Elementary in Framingham (4000 books) and the Boston Public Schools (41,000 books). In addition, 108,750 books were delivered to Pakistan last year. Reading Tree has donated over 9 million books globally since their inception in 2000. You can find more information about this program, including guidelines for donations, at <http://www.uuac-sherborn.org/social/books.php>. Thanks so much for your continued support of this program that creatively recycles surplus books! Questions? Contact Lisa Palmer at lapalmer@comcast.net.

HELP WANTED:

Someone to run Salvation Army dinners four times a year.

After many years of service, Jan Mitchell has reluctantly had to give up this job. It involves collecting meat loaves at church, purchasing green beans and ice cream sandwiches, and overseeing the dinner at the Salvation Army in Framingham from approximately 4:30 to 7:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of May, August, November, and February (the dates change every few years). We have been conducting this ministry for many years and have it down to a science, so there is plenty of information to guide you.

Anyone who would like more information can contact Joan Hunter, jbh_11@verizon.net or (508) 893-6259.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, June 18th 3-5PM at the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn

THIS IS MY FACE presents...

'KILLING US SOFTLY'

~An acclaimed documentary about the impact of advertising on women~

"Jean Kilbourne's work is profoundly important. She's one of those people who makes a difference in how we see the world."

~Arlie Hochschild

Director of the Center for Working Families
University of California, Berkeley

Documentary followed by presentation. Refreshments will be provided by nourish restaurant.
Suggested \$10 donation



THIS IS MY FACE is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about women and aging. We work to provide funding for re-constructive surgery and educational opportunities to women in need both in the U.S. and abroad.

For more information about the event and to reserve a seat, please contact Karen @ 508-641-0878 or e-mail at nourishlexington@hotmail.com

Caring Ministries - We, the Caring Ministries at UUAC, share a covenant with our congregation to help one another in time of need.

The **Caring Committee** provides short-term, physical help to individuals and families within our congregation who are in need. While we cannot offer emergency or ongoing services, we can offer our collective love through support with:

- meals
- rides for medical appointments, transportation to church events
- check-ins for those who feel isolated

cards for celebrations as well as hardships, and help to organize resources during times of crisis

Because it is sometimes difficult to ask for help, the Caring Committee relies upon our entire congregation to identify and communicate the needs of our parishioners.

Our **Lay Pastoral Care Ministers** offer emotional and spiritual support to individuals and families going through difficult challenges. We are called to be a caring presence and witness to those struggling with:

- bereavement, death and dying
- illness and medical difficulties
- marital and personal crises

other life-altering events

Lay Pastoral Care Ministers participate in training to educate and enhance their ability to be a supportive, pastoral presence. We do not counsel, perform therapy or offer advice. In all contact, we honor confidentiality.

Contact

Caring Committee: caring@uuac-sherborn.org or Sara McKenzie (sarajane39@comcast.net) to ask for help or volunteer.

Lay Pastoral Care Ministers: caring@uuac.sherborn.org

News from the Church Office

My summer church office hours will be Tuesday, 8:00am- 1:00pm & Thursday, 11:00am - 4:00pm. Messages will be picked up at that time. I look forward to seeing all of you again in Sept. Thank you for welcoming me this year. I've had a great 1st year with this congregation.



REMINDER: if you've recently left any personal items at the church, please swing into the church office or call 508-653-1432. I'm accumulating quite a collection... water bottles, gloves, cameras... Thanks!

The next Crossroads won't be again until September. Please feel free to submit articles during the summer for the next publication.

More photos from Art in Bloom event...



**Unitarian Universalist Area Church
at First Parish in Sherborn**

11 Washington Street, P.O. Box 158
Sherborn, Massachusetts 01770-0158
(508) 653-1422
<http://www.uuac-sherborn.org>

Worship Service: Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.
Crossroads, the newsletter of the UUAC, is mailed to all members and pledging friends via US or electronic mail. Non-members receive a complimentary three-month subscription. The newsletter may be viewed at the church website. Printed copies can be picked up at church.

Crossroads Listing Policy

Submissions to *Crossroads* are always welcome and may be e-mailed to uuac@uuac-sherborn.org (*word format preferred*); or typed/legibly handwritten copy may be dropped off in the Church Office by noon on the deadline date.

We are happy to publish any announcements about UUAC, UU-sponsored events and other non-profit activities of interest to the community. We are sorry we cannot list for-profit announcements.

UUAC Board of Directors

President: Jeff Barton
Treasurer: Hank Rauch
Clerk: Deb Boyce
At-Large: Peter Gormley
Buildings and Grounds: Roger Demler
Finance: Jon Treon
Personnel: Adrienne Walker
Minister (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering

UUAC Ministry Council

Chair (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering
Adult Programs: Gage Heath
Caring Committee: Sara McKenzie
Caring Ministries/Lay Pastoral Care: Becky Sheble-Hall
Denominational Affairs: Jill Carroll
Celebrations: Darrah Bryans
Membership: Katherine McHugh
Music: Cathy Leonard
Religious Education: Gary Leonard
Social Action: Vicky Diamond
Women's Alliance President: Dot Widmayer
Worship:
Youth Representative: Rachel Ansell
President (Ex-Officio): Jeff Barton

UUAC STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister:
Reverend Nathan Detering
508-653-1422/ minister@uuac-sherborn.org

Ministerial Intern:
Kate Landis
508-653-1422/ intern@uuac-sherborn.org

Congregational Administrator:
Erika Schaad
508-653-1422/ uuac@uuac-sherborn.org

Bookkeeper:
Patricia Weller
bookkeeper@uuac-sherborn.org

Director of Religious Education:
Kate Holland
508-653-1422/ dre@uuac-sherborn.org

**Membership Development /
Communications Coordinator:**
Katherine McHugh
508-653-1422/
communications@uuac-sherborn.org

Music Director: Laura Jensen
401-787-3032/ music@uuac-sherborn.com

Sexton: Kevin O'Gorman
508-653-1422/ sexton@uuac-serborn.org