

# The Bellnote

Universalist Unitarian  
Church of East Liberty  
2231 Jefferson Road,  
Clarklake, MI 49234  
(517) 529-4221

Volume 216 Number 1

January 2009

LOCATED 3/4 MILE WEST OF U.S. 127

## MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Her day off  
Tuesday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Wednesday: By appointment  
Thursday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Friday: Sermon-writing day  
Saturday: By appointment  
Cindy works mostly from her home office

## STAFF

MINISTER            Rev. Cynthia Landrum  
  
R. E. COORDINATOR    Sharon Pedersen  
  
MUSIC DIRECTOR        Nancy Cooper  
  
NURSERY & CHILD CARE    Vicki Haynes

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT            Kerry Hart  
  
VICE PRESIDENT        Jane Volk  
  
SECRETARY            Becky Bowen  
  
TREASURER            Steve Beison  
  
TRUSTEE                Gratia Karmes  
  
TRUSTEE                Alyce Oosting

## CARING COMMITTEE

Nena Obits

## BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Weatherwax

Carol Bowen

Nena Obits



## Minister's Column

I don't usually make New Year's resolutions, but this year I've got a few, hoping to be better at the many hats I wear: minister, mother, spouse, teacher (adjunct at JCC), board member (of Family Services and Children's Aid), colleague, and individual person. My life needs greater attention to the balance of these things, and that's my goal for the new year. I'm taking some time off at the beginning of January for rest and renewal.

When I get back, there'll be some new things happening at our church. I'm starting up a new "adult" RE class (actually, it's for adults and children—for families!). We have an interesting forum planned on the economy. At the end of January I'll be away for a half week for a conference, this one on "Appreciative Inquiry." Some of you may remember that we used Appreciative Inquiry in a growth workshop with a district consultant last year. I'm looking forward to learning more about the process.

In February we'll be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin. If you're interested in planning a celebration, let me know! We'll have a forum on the topic, a Sunday service, a special social hour, and who knows what else! February also brings Secret Friends month, a time for children and adults in the congregation to get to know each other better through exchanges of notes and small gifts. I've enjoyed my own secret friends in the past, and encourage those of you who've never tried it to give it a go this year.

Early this year I encourage you to, along with me, read the Big Read book – *The Grapes of Wrath* – which we'll be talking about in March. We'll have a forum on *The Grapes of Wrath*, as well, with a look at poverty in Jackson.

It looks like the start to a good year at UUCEL, but if you have something that you're interested in seeing the church do, I encourage you to talk to me or a board member or committee chair about it. We'd love to have more members lead programs like Peggy Smith did with the "Yoga for Advent" series, and if members have a program they're interested in but not comfortable leading, we'd like to hear about those as well. It may feel like there's too much going on to attend it all, but that's a good sign of a healthy and growing church!

Namaste, *Cindy*

# Religious Education Report

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays have been filled with joy, and peace. I took a little extra time off from my "9 to 5" job to organize my tax and Religious Education (RE) paperwork—so let's hope that "take time to get organized" new year's resolution comes to fruition! (Along with the usual "diet and exercise" one!)

It really does take time to have a successful RE program. Along with my preparatory time for each week's lessons, the RE volunteers take time to read the lessons ahead, and often prepare activities/craft projects ahead, as well. Parents bring their kids to pageant practices, and volunteers prepare "Santa's Workshop" and other special projects. I am grateful for the investment of time and energy that many members and friends of this church devote to RE.

I think the time spent on preparing for the pageant was worth it—don't you? It came off wonderfully, thanks to the investment of time from all of our actors, as well as our music director, Nancy Cooper, and song leader, Gretchen Marshall. Thanks also to Anne Seifert, who helped decorate the "set." Children enjoyed lunches of pizza and "rotini spaghetti" at the Saturday practices. Meredith Baither, Anne Seifert, and Kathy and Vicki Haynes helped with "Santa's Workshop" craft stations after the pageant. (Hope I haven't left anyone out!)

Speaking of pizza, who knew that teens could eat so much of it? We had our first Interfaith Youth meeting on Sunday night, December 7, and many teens and their youth leaders joined us from St. Johns United Church of Christ. The teens are interested in meeting monthly, and we hope to make this a traveling group, visiting different religious facilities in the area and introducing more and more potential youth participants to the group in this way. Our next meetings will be January 11 and then February 1, and we'll keep you posted on locations and times.

As we resume RE lessons after the holidays, the teens and 'tweens will continue to study the life of Jesus, and have visitors to tell them more about Judaism. The K-5 class will continue to have interesting lessons from the new curriculum, "Moral Tales," where each Sunday a story illustrates a theme from our "moral compass." And preschoolers will enjoy their lessons from the curriculum *We are Many, We are One*. Also in January, watch for the **"Church Friends" sign-up sheets. They'll be due Jan. 18th** so I can let you know about your "match" by January 25 (see related article).

We are still in need of donations of white posterboard, 11 x 17" drawing paper pads, and/or gift cards to Meijer, Office Depot, etc. to purchase these. Thank you for your ongoing support—it means so much to me, and to all of our volunteers!

Yours Truly, *Sharon*



Religious Education Coordinator

## New Flag Policy

After doing our own research and listening to the passionate views from both sides of this question, the worship committee has decided to display the American flag to the right of the pulpit in the sanctuary on the following days each year—The Fourth of July, Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The flag can also be displayed when appropriate in reference to the sermon as approved by the worship committee. Finally, the flag can be displayed the Sunday after a veteran has passed if requested by his or her family.

Submitted by: The Worship Committee

**We Welcome Your Membership** Not a member? We'd love to have you join our spiritual community. New members signify their commitment by signing the Membership Book during a scheduled church service. It is understood that members actively support their congregation through attendance, service and financial commitment. To start your process of becoming an official member of our lively, compassionate and challenging congregation, speak with Rev. Cindy Landrum, (517) 529-4221, or a member of the membership committee, including Kathy Haynes, Joan Bernstein Jann Krupa and Carole Hartsuff.

### **"How to be a "Church Friend"**

While we're renaming "Secret Friends" to "Church Friends" this year, the traditions remain essentially the same. We'll do the "double blind" method again this year, where neither the child NOR the adult know who their assigned "Church Friend" is.

The profile information I give you should give you all you need to know to be a "Church Friend." Adults, buy or make gifts in the \$2-5 value for Sundays, Feb. 1-15, and perhaps a bigger gift for Feb. 22, but **spend no more than \$8 – \$20 total** on your Church Friend. Children, try to leave a note or "goodie" up to \$5 in value for your Church Friend every week, too, with perhaps a nicer gift for Feb. 22, but again, spend no more than \$20 total on your Church Friend; less or "all home-made" ok.

You will have a bag with an assigned "symbol" on it, and a matching one for your Church Friend. One set will be on the hat shelf in the foyer outside the sanctuary, and the other set will be on the windowsills in the social hall. At the Church Friends breakfast at 10am on Feb. 22, we will "reveal" the matches; so see if you can keep your identity a secret until then!

#### **A few things to keep in mind:**

1) There are people with differing financial means who attend church. Try not to make this a contest of who can give/get the "neatest stuff." Also, accept homemade gifts and food items with the love in which they are given.

2) If you cannot attend on a Sunday during Church Friends month, see if a friend can deliver your Church Friend's gift for you, or let Sharon know as a last resort. On the other hand, recognize that time conflicts come up, and perfect attendance of your "Church Friend" is rare. If you miss a Sunday, it's still best to "make it up" the next week, with two notes/gifts/etc.

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen  
RE Coordinator

#### **Minister's New Office Hours:**

Cynthia usually works from her home office and her office hours are T-Th 10-6. She is available other days by appointment. Friday is her sermon writing day and Monday is her day off.

#### **Minister's Vacation and Study Leave:**

Our minister is on vacation from December 29th Through January 4th & on study leave from January 5th through January 11th.

# Meetings and Events

## U.U. Church of East Liberty

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### Adult and Family

#### Religious Education Opportunity

Join us for **"Evensong for Families,"** an 8-week series of spiritual worship-style gatherings grounded in the understanding that communication strengthens bonds within families, between families, and between families and their congregations. Our first session will be **Tuesday, January 13** at 6:30 pm. All kinds of families are warmly invited to join. Babies and young children are welcome; parents know best whether an experience like this is best for their children. Please sign up in the social hall on the bulletin board sign-up list. We will close registration at roughly 20 participants. Sessions include "Who Is Your Family?" "Things You Love to Do Together," "Good Times and Bad," "Your Family's Ten Commandments," and more.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

#### First Friday Dinner of February

Yes, we have cooks for the February First Friday Dinner. Jane Volk and Alyce Oosting will be the hosts for the **February 7th** First Friday dinner. The dinner starting at 6:30 pm will have a Mexican/American theme. As of December 24th, there will be a sign up sheet posted in the Social Hall. If anyone is interested in helping with the menu, contact Jane for recipes.

Submitted by: Jane Volk

#### Cooks needed

Still looking for volunteers to step up and take a turn at cooking the First Friday Dinners for the months of April and June. Tell someone on the membership committee if you would like to do so.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

### Craft Day

Please plan to attend the **Saturday, January 24th** Scrappin' & Craftin' Day (any kind of craft project you are working on, bring it and your supplies to work on it; as others do theirs). Our monthly get-togethers are on the 4th Saturday of each month. Please Contact Caroline if you are interested in coming. The time is from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. There is no charge for participating, but donations to help cover the church's costs are welcome.

Submitted by: Caroline Landrum

### AUW

There will be no regular AUW meeting in the month of January. Joan is having foot surgery the first part of the month and there are no pressing issues to talk about.

Submitted by: Joan Bernstein

### Caring Committee

Our next Caring Committee meeting will be on **Sunday, Jan. 18th** after the service.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

### commUnity forUms

...are free and open programs to facilitate dialogue about the challenging issues of our time. ForUms are usually held at the Jackson District Library, located at 244 W. Michigan Ave. between Blackstone & N. Jackson Street. ForUms are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. This month's forum is at a special time and location. The commUnity forUm is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

**Thursday, Jan. 15th at 6:30 pm**

***"What should we do about the economy?"***

Hear from the "experts"—we're inviting stock-brokers, bankers, and economists for U of M has been confirmed—about what we're in for, and how our country might be able to escape another depression. We're back at Jackson District Library Carnegie Branch (downtown) for this one!

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.



## ~~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

~ Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name, ~ Invite a visitor to social hour, ~ Wear a nametag, ~ Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose, ~ Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey.

*Church growth is everyone's responsibility*

## Darwin's Birthday Bash

Please join us on **Sunday, February 15th** for a Charles Darwin's 200th Birthday Bash.

There will be a potluck dinner following the service, with a meat dish provided (the leftovers from the fall pig roast that have been frozen till now) and a birthday cake too! Also on that day will be a slideshow from Marge Duane of the Galapagos Islands and some of John's books on display for people to look at.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

## Hidden Lake Gardens Trip

Plans are being made for an upcoming event in February. If you would like to go on a Nature Outing to Hidden Lake Gardens please contact Nena for more information. This will take place on **Sunday, February 15th** at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

## Bellnote Policies:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO COMMUNICATE TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ABOUT THE UUCEL MINISTRY, BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES. THE NEWSLETTER ALSO SERVES AS A WINDOW INTO THE CHURCH FOR VISITORS. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION THAT SERVE THIS PURPOSE. ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE REVIEWED AND PUBLISHED AS SPACE ALLOWS. CONTENT MAY BE EDITED. THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE IS AVAILABLE TO RESOLVE ANY EDITORIAL DISPUTES. ALL JOYS AND SORROWS ARE SELF-REPORTED. SEE THE "NEWSLETTER POLICY" FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## A Thank You from the Editors

We would like to thank Paul and Darcy Bowen for their part of the newsletter. I send the new visitors information to them, the names added to the labels listing (paper copy list) or the on-line listing, the labels are printed and often they are delivered to my home. Thanks also to those who sent submissions to the newsletter; without you there would not be anything to print. 95% of the submissions are sent by e-mail. Thanks also to those 5% submissions that give us notes to type up. Thanks to all that have written down the weekly Joy and Sorrows. Thanks to Marge Duane and Rev. Cindy who edit the newsletter and send it back to us in a timely fashion before it is printed. Thanks to Gretchen Marshall who keeps the paper stocked for the copy machine; the paper is always there when needed. Thanks to the guy that writes the check for the stamps for those that get it mailed out, this is not always so timely (I need more now). Thanks mostly to the readers; we enjoy putting it together for you to read.

~~ Kathy and Vicki Haynes ~~



## Meetings and Events

not directly affiliated with UUCEL

## UUCA: B&B for Obama Inauguration

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington-Virginia are opening their homes to fellow UUs from Jan. 16th to Jan. 22nd for lodging during President-elect Obama's inauguration.

Accommodations range from sleeping on the sofa, to a private room and bath, with prices accordingly. All homes are conveniently located in the D.C. metro area (mainly Arlington/Alexandria/Fairfax, Virginia) and accessible to metro (subway system). You don't have to miss out on this exciting historical event! This is a fundraiser for UUCA — all proceeds benefit the church. To request a reservation, please visit [www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org) and click on "UUCA Hosts4Change."

#### FROM THE EDITOR:

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST COPY OF THE CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER "THE BELLNOTE" WELCOME ABOARD, AND HAPPY READING. OUR CHURCH CALENDAR YEAR RUNS FROM JULY 1-JUNE 30, THE CHURCH BOARD ASKS THOSE THAT RECEIVE THE PAPER VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER TO PAY A \$17.00 PER-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FEE AND WE STARTED THIS IN AUG., 2007. NEW VISITORS WILL GET 3 MONTHS FREE, AFTER THAT A SUBSCRIPTION FEE WILL BE ASKED FOR, OR CHANGED TO AN ON-LINE VERSION THAT IS NO CHARGE.

THANK YOU – KATHY AND VICKI

THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

uucel\_bellnote@yahoo.com

Kathy & Vicki Haynes

or the Bellnote mailbox.

We want to thank ~ Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, Steve Beison, Lynn Hightower, Jane Volk, Caroline Landrum, Joan Bernstein, Nena Obits, Outreach Comm. and the Membership Comm., *for their news items this month.*

"Go now and live your religion;  
Its truth reflect in all you do.  
Go, may love's presence ever guide you.  
Live the good life the whole day through."  
~~ Our Closing Song ~~

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#### OUR 7 PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:

- ~ THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON
- ~ JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS
- ~ ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS
- ~ A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING
- ~ THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE
- ~ THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL
- ~ 6 ~ RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART

# The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

## January

- 1 Thurs. No AUUW Meeting this month  
 2 Fri. No 1st Friday Dinner is Planned  
 4 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader, To Be Announced  
 7 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm  
 11 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ To Be Announced  
 11 Sunday Interfaith Youth Meeting ~ Location to be Announced  
 13 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am  
 13 Tue. 1st of an 8-week **"Evensong for Families"** Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm  
 14 Wed. Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm  
 14 Wed. Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm  
 15 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:30 pm  
 15 Thurs. commUnity forUm ~  
                   **"What should we do about the economy?"** @ Jackson District Library ~ 6:30 pm  
 18 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum  
 18 Sunday The "Church Friends" sign-up sheets are Due to Sharon ~ formerly known as Secret Friends  
 18 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the service  
 20 Tue. 2nd of an 8-week **"Evensong for Families"** Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm  
 24 Sat. Scrapping & Crafting ~ 9:30 am - 5:30 pm  
 25 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum  
 26 Tue. 3rd of an 8-week **"Evensong for Families"** Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 1 Interfaith Youth Meeting ~ Location to be Announced  
 Feb 7 First Friday Dinner hosted by Jane Volk and Alyce Oosting  
 Feb 15 Charles Darwin's 200th Birthday Bash and Potluck Dinner  
 Feb. 22 Church Friends Breakfast formerly known as Secret Friends ~ 10:00 am

### WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sun.	Greeters	Ushers	Social Hour Host	Nursery Helper	R.E. Teachers
Jan. 4	Alyce	Gary & Paul	Open	Open	K-5; Rob & Meredith Teens; Gretchen & Alyce
Jan. 11	Grace	Gary & Tom	Meredith	Open	Pre; Jackie & Jane H. K-5; Anne & Chris K. Teens; Sharon & Cecily
Jan. 18	Joan	Gary & Paul	Anita	Open	Intergenerational
Jan. 25	Carole	Gary & Tom	Jane H.	Sharon M.	Pre; Kerry & Kathy K-5; Peter & Sharon Teens; Lynn & Becky

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am ~ Celebrating Over 150 Years of Liberal Religion

Jan. 4 - "Favorite Things"

- Lay Leader; To Be Announced -

Bring with you your "Favorite Thing" and share with others the reason(s) why it is your favorite. In the past there have been items such as; a picture, a rock, a book, a quilt, music of some sort, almost anything is an OK, just use a little common sense about your items.

Jan. 11 -

- No information given to the editors  
before this was printed -

Jan. 18 - "Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -

This service will celebrate the lasting legacy of the civil rights movement.

Jan. 25 - " Civil Disobedience  
& Henry David Thoreau"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -

We start the Season for Nonviolence with a look at the start of Civil Disobedience in our own faith: Henry David Thoreau.

Where people care about each other and care about the world.  
http://www.geocities.com/kemit\_210/the\_bellnote\_uucel.html  
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