

The Bellnote

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

July 2009

Volume 222 Number 7

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

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TRUSTEE Jane Volk
TRUSTEE Becky Bowen
TRUSTEE Gratia Karmes
TRUSTEE Nancy Smith
TRUSTEE Cecily Savick

CARING COMMITTEE

Alyce Oosting

BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Weatherwax

Carol Bowen

Nena Obits



Minister's Column

During July I take several weeks of study leave. One thing I do during my study leave is study, of course, and plan for the following year. This year one of my particular points of focus will be on poetry, as I am presenting a paper on poetry at a fall conference. Looking ahead to next year, I can see it will be very busy around that time, as I not only have that study group conference in October but also the once-every-seven-years ministerial "Convocation" in November. Fall could be a busy time for you, too, as there are exciting local conferences for lay people. On October 16-18 the Faith Action Network will hold "Together in Faith," a conference for faith-based advocates of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality. On the following weekend, October 23-24 the Jesus Seminar will be in Jackson, holding a conference on the historical Jesus at First Baptist Church, which I hope we will be official co-sponsors of.

The other part of summer study leave is spent in spiritual growth, reflection, and meditation. I hope you have some time this summer for these sorts of activities also.

I know this has been a tough spring for our congregation, as we deal with a budget that doesn't seem to cover all of our needs. Religious Education is a priority for me as a parent, and, as a minister, I believe it is a major piece of our mission as a congregation. The board is hard at work, having heard the concerns of the congregation about this, and I believe will be able to, by fall (if not even sooner), find a way to restore the cuts that were made to our Religious Education Coordinator's position.

It was also a tough congregational meeting recently as we voted as a congregation to support the Worship Committee's policy on the U.S. flag's display in our sanctuary. I know a number of you came up to me and said that the policy didn't necessarily reflect your own personal view, but that you supported it either to support the work of the committee, or in the spirit of compromise, or as a gesture of respect for those whose views you disagree with. It is my hope that having the flag there on some Sundays and not on others will make its display even more meaningful when it is displayed, rather than becoming just another object that we don't really see because it is so routine. This question about the flag has been an open question in our church for decades, and it is good to see us having resolved it peacefully, even though I know there are feelings still somewhat fresh and sore from the experience.

Continued on next page . ~.1~

Even though it is hard to hear those we disagree with sometimes, it is important that all these voices on both sides of the issue were given the opportunity to be shared and heard in religious community. The best outcome is one where we all grow from understanding those who are not like ourselves, and thus truly embrace the diversity we hold.

As I finish this church year, I remain so proud of this congregation in so many ways, not only for how we handle our difficulties in the congregation, but also for how we take our mission and our faith out into the community in little and large ways. We've got an exciting year ahead, full of opportunities to do just that. Meanwhile, rest, relax, and enjoy these halcyon days of summer.

Namaste,
Cindy

Minister's Schedule

June 29-July 5: Study Leave
July 6 – July 19: Vacation
July 20 – August 2: Study Leave

Starting in August, new office hours:

Monday: Day off
Tuesday-Thursday: Office Hours
9:00am – 5:00pm
Friday: Sermon-writing day
Saturday & Sunday: Available by
appointment

The minister works mostly from her home office. For an appointment, please call her home number.

Reminder

As you go on your holiday travels, collect water from your location to bring to our fall water ingathering service!

Religious Education Report

June was another busy month, with the Flower Sunday/Wheel of the Year service the first week, Pride Sunday, and Summer RE starting June 14. We'll have lessons from "Toolbox of Faith" for all ages, every other week. I'll be on vacation June 28—thank you to Rob Gaecke and Gretchen Marshall for "holding down the fort."

This seems like a good place to mention that, starting in July, we will be offering nursery care at the beginning of services at 11am, so parents can drop the little ones off on the way to the sanctuary. Please pick your children up promptly at noon, or when the service concludes. Religious education (RE) classes for the other children will still be "sung out" about 15 minutes after the services start, as usual.

The RE Committee met on June 17, with its major work of brainstorming potential RE volunteers for the fall. Rev. Cindy and I also started talking about next year's schedule, which we'll be fleshing out with the Worship Committee and in start-up workshops in August/September.

The RE Committee and I will be in touch soon with those who taught this year, and new prospects, to ask if you'd like to do some of the most important (and fun!) work you'll ever do—to help teach our young ones next Fall. We will hold a K-5th grade class in the schoolhouse focusing on UU principles, and a 6th-12th grade class covering Asian religions, and later next Spring, defining their own "credos." Teachers only have duty an average of 1/3 of classes, which because of "intergenerational" Sundays works out to about once per month. Many teachers have said the lessons contribute to their personal spiritual growth.

Our upcoming fiscal year's budget deficit is certainly a call to action for the congregation. I appreciate the congregation's support in this regard.

Thanks for your support of RE.

Religiously yUUs

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

GoodSearch and GoodShop (and Amazon)

UUCEL is now registered with GoodSearch. Here's what that means. GoodSearch is a search engine, much like Google. It uses Yahoo's search engine to provide results. To use it, you go to www.goodsearch.com, and select our church, Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty, in the "Who Do You GoodSearch For?" box. Once you have done this, every time you use GoodSearch to search for a webpage, UUCEL will earn a little money. You can even see how much UUCEL is making from this easy fundraiser by clicking on the "amount raised" button. So far, with a few of us using it over the past week, that is \$0.62. It's not much so far, but it can grow quickly, and it's easy to do.

However, we know many of you may be very tied to your own search engine of choice, and not interested in making this switch. That's okay. There's one other big way to use GoodSearch to raise money for the church. On GoodSearch's page, after you've registered the church as your charity, click the "Shopping" tab above the search box. This will take you to a page that lists a bunch of on-line stores. There's even more available. Simply type in whatever store you're looking for, and you are likely to find it if it's a large chain or large on-line store. If you click on that store from GoodSearch, and then you ultimately make a purchase, our church will earn a percentage of the sales. It costs you nothing more than you would already spend at that store. And that's not all! There are often coupons provided for that store at GoodSearch, so it may even save you money. For example, if I downloaded a song at iTunes for \$0.99 after clicking to it through GoodSearch, the church would receive 2.5% of the sale, or a little over two cents. But if I purchased Mary Oliver's *New and Selected Poems: Volume 1* at Barnes and Noble with a 10% off coupon for \$14.40, the church would receive 3% of the sales, or about \$0.43. If I ordered a new Dell Inspiron desktop computer with a base price of \$269, using a 15% off coupon and getting it for \$229, the church would earn 2% or \$4.58. If you're making any

sort of on-line purchase, from small to large, you can help our church while you're doing it.

This past year we had a similar program through Amazon.com, where you could link from the church's page at www.libertyuu.org/shop.html, and the church would receive a percentage of the purchase. That program is still continuing, and thanks to your simply clicking there first before making your Amazon.com purchases, the church made an easy \$46.43 in this past church year. Now our goal is to do the same with other online stores through GoodSearch, and hopefully increase even further the amount we can raise for our church.

A couple of people have asked me if we make more from Amazon.com through GoodSearch or through the links to Amazon at our church's webpage. The answer is that it's more profitable from the church's webpage at www.libertyuu.org/shop.html. We make 1.5% from Amazon on most items through GoodSearch, and 4% from Amazon on those same items if you go through the church webpage. So for those of you already using this method to shop on Amazon, please continue to do so.

Thank you!

—Cindy Landrum

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.

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee, now has a new chairperson, Alyce Oosting. Their next meeting is **June 28th** after the service. At that time they will set up dates for the upcoming months. Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Summer Nature Outing

Come and take a stroll at McCourtie Park on **Sunday, July 19th**, 12:30 pm. The park is located on the northwest corner of South Jackson Road and US-12. It's a beautiful park with an interesting history. There are bridges and chimneys carved to look like wood, large birdhouses, a stream and an abundance of wildlife. We can carpool from church. Bring a lunch to eat at the park before we walk.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Cooks needed

Looking for volunteers to step up and take a turn at cooking/hosting the First Friday Dinners for the months of **September** and beyond. Let someone on the membership committee know if you would like to do so.

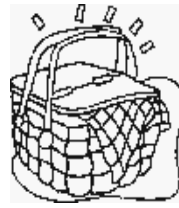
Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

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. The commUnity forUm is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

The forums are not held in July and August, they will return in September. If you have any ideas or questions please contact Nancy Smith or Lynn Hightower.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee



Annual Church Picnic/Potluck

Please join us on
Sunday, August 2nd

for the annual church picnic. It will be held at the church yard, right after the service. We'll put a few extra tables and chairs outside, also feel free to bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on. We are asking you to bring a passing dish and your own table service; gardeners are encouraged to bring dishes made of their homegrown veggies and fruits. Lemonade and iced tea will be provided.

Submitted by: Nena Obits
and Membership Comm.

"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~~

Brooklyn Food Pantry

It's our turn to have one or two volunteers to work at the Brooklyn Food Pantry, 171 Wamplers Lake Road, Brooklyn. The pantry is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. to fill the orders of those in need of food and restock shelves. Our work dates are **Tuesday, July 21st and Thursday, July 23rd**. If you are available to help in this rewarding work please contact Paul Jenkins at church or give him a call. Don't forget to bring canned food or any non-perishable items for donation to the pantry. There is a basket in the foyer under the desk for your contributions.

Submitted by:

Paul Jenkins

Herb Mueller a past member of our church died on June 10th. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, **July 1st** at 4:00 pm at:

King of Kings Lutheran Church
2685 Packard Road
Ann Arbor, MI

Memorial donations are accepted at Arbor Hospice or Lord of Light Lutheran Church. He was very active while attending our church, especially Social Concerns committee and on the board.

Note: The location has been changed from the Lord of Light Lutheran Church, to have a larger building.

Submitted by: Carole Hartsuff

Young Artist Recognized

UUCEL youth Marina M. has had one of her paintings recognized by her school. Her beautiful painting of a bird can be viewed on the school website at <http://www.hhsd.k12.mi.us/vnews/display.v/ART/2009/04/29/49f7cacadf1ee>

Note: For the non-computer people, this is what Marina painted. A large happy bird of different shades of blue and green is sitting on a branch; the background is orange and yellow. Her bird is on Hanover-Horton's school web-page showing a part of the school's art show that was at the Jackson Crossing in May. Great job!

Submitted by: Phyllis Myers
and Editors

~~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.

Thank you!

Church growth is
everyone's responsibility

Meijer Community Rewards Program

A small percentage of your **cash, debit card or Meijer Credit Card** purchases can go to help our church. If you are not already registered for this program call 800-962-7011, or go online at <http://www.meijer.com/mymeijer/SignUp1.asp?pgm=mcr&url=/rewards/mcrsignup2.asp>

Paper copy of "The Bellnote"

It is time to send in your yearly payment of \$17.00 to receive the paper copy of the church's newsletter "The Bellnote". Please give to Kathy Haynes or mail to her.

She has the list of those who now receive the newsletter and will mark you paid upon receiving payment and then turn the money over to the church treasurer. Please make checks payable to UUCEL and on the memo line write "paper copy newsletter." There are a few friends of the church that just sent in their payment for the newsletter after getting 3 months free, thank you, and you know who you are. The church calendar runs July 1st – June 30th so you decide what to send. The \$17.00 covers the cost of printing and postage for one year. Thank you for your prompt payment.

Submitted by: the Editors
Kathy & Vicki Haynes



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 AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, JULY 19

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, Carole Hartsuff, Paul Jenkins, Phyllis Myers, Nena Obits, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Outreach Comm. and the Membership Comm., for their news items this month.

**"May it be true that a joy shared is a joy doubled and a
sorrow shared is a sorrow halved"**

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
- ☞ 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

June

28 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
29 - 30 Minister is on - Study Leave

July

1 - 5 Minister is on - Study Leave
1 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
2 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader - Nancy Cooper
6 - 19 Minister is on - Vacation
8 Wed. Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
12 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader - Tom Pepper
14 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
15 Wed. Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm
19 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader - Ann Green
20 - 31 Minister is on - Study Leave
21 Tue. Brooklyn Food Pantry; work day ~ 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
23 Thurs. Brooklyn Food Pantry; work day ~ 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
26 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader - Lynn Hightower
No commUnity forUm in July
No Membership Meeting in July

Upcoming Events

Aug. 1- 2 Minister is on - Study Leave
Aug. 2 Lay Leader - Jon Hart
Aug. 2 Picnic after the Service ~ Outside at Church

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sun.	Greeters	Ushers	Social Hour Host	Nursery Helper	R.E. Teachers
July 5	Alyce O.	Gary T. & Open	Jane H.	Chris B.	
July 12	Grace M.	Gary T. & Paul J.	Open	Open	
July 19	Joan B.	Gary T. & Alyce O.	Kathy H.	Jane H.	
July 26	Betty G.	Gary T. & Paul J.	Open	Open	

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

July 5 - "Credo or, If I Believe"

- Lay Leader - Nancy Cooper

On this Sunday we will be having members and friends of the church to have a chance to share their personal "Credos," with the congregation.

July 19 - "Poetry Sunday"

- Lay Leader - Ann Green

Please contact Ann if you would like to be a part of this service, by bringing and reading your favorite poem.

July 12 - "Love and Friendship in Popular Music"

- Lay Leader - Tom Pepper

There will be readings and songs related to the theme of Love and Friendship and its importance to our lives.

July 26 - "Humor Sunday"

- Lay Leader - Lynn Hightower

Humor! What's your favorite "clean" humor? Similar to last week's topic, please contact Lynn to let her know you would like to be a part of the service.

Where people care about each other and care about the world.
http://www.geocities.com/kemit_210/the_bellnote_uucel.html
www.libertyuu.org
eastlibertyuu@yahoo.com

