



Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter UU Church Bloomington In

strengthen as the failure in Iraq deepens. The responsible alternative is to recognize that our occupation itself makes a political solution impossible. To say, as the President does, that a deadline is a signal to "the enemy," once again conflates the Iraqi nationalist resistance with Al Qaeda and thereby strengthens the extremists.

Today you face a choice which is as clear as it is uncomfortable. For the sake of American and Iraqi families, and for our nation's future, please vote No on Iraq war appropriations.

Spencer PFLAG Picnic

You're invited to join Spencer/Owen County PFLAG in celebrating our first Spencer PRIDE Festival & Picnic, a community wide event. The picnic will be held on Saturday, June 2 at the West End of Coopers Common (corner of Cooper & West St) in Spencer from 1 to 5pm. We will have FREE food, games, face painting, perennial plant exchange, music and raffles for great prizes. We'll also have informational booths from other non-profits. Please come and support our fledgling PFLAG in Spencer. For more information call Judi at 812-829-9611.

ACT NOW! TELL YOUR SENATORS TO PASS HATE CRIMES LAWS

No one should live in fear that they will be targeted for attack simply because of who they are. Help bring federal hate crimes laws into the 21st century and provide local law enforcement agencies with the resources they need to combat bias-motivated crime. More than 7,000 people are targeted for violence every year because of their race, religion, ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation. The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act will give local law enforcement the tools they need to investi-

gate and prosecute these crimes. Currently our Senators are receiving 10:1 communications urging them to vote against the bill.

Write a personal letter, call and email Senators Lugar and Bayh today.

Ask them to support the Matthew Shepard hate Crimes Bill (S. 1105)

Senator Richard Lugar
richard.lugar@mail.senate.gov
(202) 224-4814
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Evan Bayh
evan.bayh@mail.senate.gov
131 Russell Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5623

Please make sure to include the following in your e-mail or phone call:

Your home address
 Your home phone number
 The name of the bill ("Matthew Shepard Act")
 The bill number (S.B. 1105)

That way, the Senator and his staff will know exactly what bill you are contacting about and THAT YOU ARE A CONSTITUENT!!

Want to get more information, or want to get more involved? Please contact Matt Brunner at mbrunner@indiana.edu or 812 219-2248. Matt is our local Human Rights Campaign organizer.

Faith in Action Forums 10:15 am in the library

Voting on Social Justice \$\$ at upcoming Congregational meeting, June 3rd

Two Social Justice financial votes are on the agenda for the June 3rd, congregational meeting: the funding of the Social Justice Funds which support the work of social justice in the congregation and the recipient of the Sunday Plate award beginning July 1, The meeting is at 4 p.m. June 3rd and followed by a congregational picnic. Come make your voice heard and vote on these and other important congregational issues. As a member you may vote, but everyone is encouraged to attend to see and learn how these and other important decisions are made.

Funding for the Social Justice Funds:

During the last building campaign the congregation voted to set aside 3% of the money raised to support social justice. Since 2000, the Social Justice Funds Awards have been used to finance over \$10,000 in social justice projects. The funds are running low. Several groups have worked to assure that funding for social justice will continue. The following motion will be presented

The members of the Social Justice Steering Committee and the Special Purposes Fund Committee (SPF) recommend the following changes in the funds currently under their

authority:

1. Merge "Building Social Justice Fund C" (currently a T account) with SPF's "Lundin Social Justice Endowment," the resulting fund to be named "The Lundin Social Justice Endowment Fund."
2. Transfer "Building Social Justice Fund A" and "Building Social Justice Fund B" (currently T accounts) to SPF, where they will be renamed "Social Justice Small Grant Fund A" and "Social Justice Large Grant Fund B."
3. The income that has accrued to date in the existing SPF Lundin Endowment Income Fund will be transferred to the new Social Justice Large Grant Fund B.
4. Future income from the newly formed Lundin Social Justice Endowment Fund will be divided evenly between the new Social Justice Small Grant Fund A and Social Justice Large Grant Fund B.

25% of Sunday Plate Award: Every year at this time, the congregation selects a local program which will receive 25% of the non-pledge Sunday plate donations. This year there were several applications of which the following three were selected for your consideration. For more information see the special report you received in the mail as

well as other information at the social justice table.

Bloomington Area Birth Service would use the monies from the UU 25% Sunday Plate Funds for their **Angel Fund**, which assists families in need to pay for childbirth education, prenatal yoga, new mothers' support groups, birth doula services, and postpartum doula services.

Martha's House says the the funds from the UU Church would be used to operate the emergency shelter, primarily by assisting with salary related expenses. Most of the funds used to operate an emergency shelter go toward staff costs who provide the services and programming including intakes for new residents, weekly case management sessions, resident advocacy, facility upkeep and other tasks associated with the operation of a shelter.

Sycamore Land Trust indicates that their Environmental Education Program would be supported with equipment, visual aids, transportation, and instructors' fees. This program helps more local citizens, particularly children, get in tune with our beautiful and fragile natural heritage, build personal values, and evolve into informed conservationists.

On Sunday June 10th, we are going to have a thank you breakfast in the library between services (10:00 -11:00) for all our task forces and other sj groups. So invite all your task force members and anyone who has helped out this year on any of your projects.



Habitat Task Force hosts activities and fund raisers

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, the Habitat for Humanity Task Force would like to pay tribute to the men in our congregation who have

supported the work of our task force in helping the Monroe County chapter provide housing for those in need in our community. Men who have worked on construction crews, provided food or helped Habitat in any way will wearing name tags to show their support. Please feel free to ask them about their experiences. We want to encourage other men in the congregation to participate, particularly as we plan and raise funds in hopes of sponsoring an interfaith Habitat house with other faith congregations. We will have BRUNCH TREATS between the services as a fund-raiser to continue to try to reach our goal of \$20,000.

Thanks to church supporters who let us wash your cars on May 20, with the help of YUUMS and their adult leaders. We raised about \$250.

Women in the congregation participated in another successful Habitat Women's Build on May 12, raising more than \$7,000 -- more than our goal of \$6,250. Team leader Mary Andrus-Overley organized 25 women who framed a home for a mother in the community and her three teenage children. The Southside house, now completed, looks wonderful.

There are opportunities for anyone interested to work on several days this summer at a Habitat construction site. Here are the dates and number of people needed to work:
June 2: 20 people; June 16: 20 people; July 14: 10 people; July 21: 10 people; July 28: 10 people; August 4: 20 people. Contact Barb Berggoetz, task force co-chairman, barbberg@bluemarble.net, or 876-6659, as soon as possible for more information and to sign up.

The task force also is planning to host an ice cream social at the church on July 4th during the fireworks. We will be selling ice cream. The profits will go toward our planned interfaith build fund. Check our progress on our "fund-raising hammer" on the social justice bulletin board.
Barb Berggoetz

From War to Peacemaking

The Unitarian Universalist Association has taken peacemaking as its study/action issue beginning in 2007. As global warming spurred our congregation to seek Green Sanctuary accreditation and to challenge ourselves to live mindfully of the Earth, peacemaking invites us to explore widely. The UUA defines its program as "peacemaking at all levels: personal, interpersonal, congregational - organizational, societal, and international." Please consider joining the Just Peace Task Force as we prepare for this adventure.

Naturally our efforts focus on ending the war in Iraq. The Just Peace Task Force thanks the many congregation members who have participated in our postcard campaign asking Congress to cut funding for the U.S. occupation. We need to redouble those efforts now. On May 24, Senators Richard Lugar and Evan Bayh and Congressmen Baron Hill and Brad Ellsworth voted to continue funding the war with no deadline for withdrawal and no binding conditions that cannot be waived by President Bush. There will be another vote in September. In the meantime there are plans for a massive campaign of citizen pressure, nationally and here. We hope you will stop by the Just Peace table and write another postcard and also ask about other activities.

For more information about the Just Peace Task Force, please contact Mike Betson forestfolk@aol.com or David Keppel keppel@sbcglobal.net 331-2815. Our next meeting is Sunday, June 24th at 12:30 at Church. Please join us! For more information about the UUA's peacemaking program, see

<http://www25.uua.org/csw/>.

A Letter to Congressman Baron Hill

Just Peace Task Force member David Keppel sent the following letter to Congressman Baron Hill. Rep. Hill voted with a minority of Democrats and a majority of Republicans in favor of unrestricted war appropriations.

I strongly urge you to vote No in today's roll call on supplemental appropriations to continue the war in Iraq.

The Democratic leadership - which began in a strong position given the 2006 election mandate to end the war - made concession after concession to a bankrupt President who retains only his instinct for political and military absolutism. For fear of looking weak on national security, the Democrats show themselves to be actually weak on national security. This vacuum threatens the Democratic Party and weakens our democracy itself.

Shorn of a withdrawal date or any truly binding conditions that cannot be undone by Presidential waiver, the war appropriation sacrifices American and Iraqi lives for nothing but the illusion of domestic political convenience. It deepens the distrust and indeed hatred in which we are held by ordinary Iraqis and by a majority in the larger Islamic world. Combined with the inexplicable defeat of the DeFazio-Hinchey amendment on Iran, this appropriation sends President Bush and Vice President Cheney a blank check for adventurism.

The President and his allies only pretend they are sending young men and women to war in the hope of success. Their only real argument, however, is fear: fear of the terrible conditions and consequences they have themselves created, and the terror they inflict on Democratic lawmakers of being pinned with the blame. It is an argument from failure, and therefore it will not abate but