

October 26, 2009



# Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter for the UU Church of Bloomington Indiana

## Holiday Baskets for MCUM

– *By the Helping Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force*

The holidays are almost upon us! Time to start thinking about grocery shopping for a local family - to make their holiday season a little bit brighter. Please sign up to provide a Holiday Miracle Food Basket to a local family in need. Last year, the UU Church provided 90% of the Holiday Baskets delivered by MCUM. The demand is up again this year with so many families struggling because of the economy. Please sign up on the Holiday Baskets Contributors sheet in the hall near the Meeting Room entrance. Be sure

to take a grocery list with careful instructions when you sign up. Read the instructions closely. You may bring your completed baskets to the church any time the offices are open. The deadline for basket deliveries is Thursday, December 3rd. Please no perishable items except hams and turkeys which may be placed in the church refrigerator to be stored until they are delivered. Any questions? Contact Mary Blizzard at **333-8957**.



## Helping Rebuild Damaged New Orleans Homes and Buildings

– *By the The Katrina Relief Task Force*

The Katrina Relief Task Force took 9 volunteers to New Orleans to rebuild damaged buildings for the week of October 3–10, 2009. We removed drywall and gutted two small offices in the large Central Congregational church that had received some flood water during Katrina, and that has not been used since, except for a Child Development Center in one part of the building. The plan is now to convert that church to a community center, and

our work will help that plan to progress. A few of us also worked at a home in the Chantilly Woods area, completing the installation of new drywall in nine rooms. This was done in cooperation with a second volunteer group from Portland Maine.

We plan to take another group down at IU's spring vacation next March 13–20, so stay tuned for information about that. If you want to be on the mailing list for information as plans develop, please send email to [nola.dfp@comcast.net](mailto:nola.dfp@comcast.net), or phone David Parkhurst at 333-2945.

## Simply Living Fair and Wellness Expo, Nov. 12-14

– By Patricia Coleman

The 4th Annual Simply Healthy: Creating Sustainable Communities Simply Living Fair and Wellness Expo takes place November 12-14, 2009. Sponsors include Green Dove Network, Green Sanctuary and Just Peace Task Forces. A number of UU's are involved.

### *Expo Events:*

Thursday, November 12th, 7:00pm., Keynote by Diana Leafe Christian, Editor Communities Magazine on "Ecovillages: Where They Are, What They're Doing, Why They Are Important" and Transition Towns". Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave. FREE. [simplyhlthy@gmail.com](mailto:simplyhlthy@gmail.com), [www.simply-healthyfair.net](http://www.simply-healthyfair.net).

Friday, November 13th, 6:00pm, Local Food Dinner co-sponsored by Food Works for Middle Way House, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2120 N. Fee Lane. Dr. Kellie Osmon will be speaking on Healing Properties of Foods; local growers and producers speaking on their products. \$35 –reservations. Tickets available at Wandering Turtle Art Gallery and Bloomingfoods Grocery Stores and through Simply Healthy website at [www.simply-healthyfair.net/tickets.htm](http://www.simply-healthyfair.net/tickets.htm).

Saturday, November 14th, 9am to 4pm Vendors presenting and demonstrating health, wellness, spirit, food and green

resources and products in Showers City Building, 401 N. Morton St., beside the Farmers Market – FREE [www.simply-healthyfair.net](http://www.simply-healthyfair.net).

Saturday, November 14th, 9am to 4pm Workshops, Building Community, Essential Oils, Health Care, Meditation, Community and Development, Cut Carbon in Garden, and more in Ivy Tech College Depot 301 N. Morton St. (7th and Morton St)- \$13/15 - and Students/Seniors - \$10/12 for the day. Tickets available at Wandering Turtle Art Gallery and Bloomingfoods Grocery Stores. [www.simplyhealthyfair.net/tickets.htm](http://www.simplyhealthyfair.net/tickets.htm)

Saturday, November 14th, 4pm, Community Conversation Moderated by Marti Crouch PhD with Diana Leafe Christian, Lucille Bertuccio, Dave Parsons, Marcia Veldman, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2120 N. Fee Lane, FREE [www.simply-healthyfair.net](http://www.simply-healthyfair.net), [simplyhlthy@gmail.com](mailto:simplyhlthy@gmail.com).

Saturday, November 14th, 7pm Healing Sound Concert with opening words by Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, presenting Tom Roznowski, Deb Phelps, Alain Barker, Patricia C. Coleman, Daryl Breeden, Steve Pollitt, Karen Taborn, Jon Kay, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2120 N. Fee Lane - \$15/18, Seniors and Students – \$12/15. Tickets available at Wandering Turtle Art Gallery and Bloomingfoods Grocery Stores. [www.simplyhealthyfair.net/tickets.htm](http://www.simplyhealthyfair.net/tickets.htm), [simplyhlthy@gmail.com](mailto:simplyhlthy@gmail.com).

## Stop Escalation in Afghanistan

– By David Keppel, Just Peace Task Force

Last month in this space, the Just Peace Task Force asked you to contact President Obama and Congress to oppose escalation in Afghanistan. Even if you have already done so, please consider contacting them again.

General Stanley McChrystal has requested 40,000 more U.S. troops in addition to the 68,000 already committed. Yet the government of Hamid Karzai is flagrantly corrupt, and the United Nations election commission ruled that the recent Presidential election was tainted by fraud. Invasions and occupations produce weak governments that are co-dependent on their occupiers. Many Afghans support the Taliban not because of ideology

but simply to resist an outside invader and choose even harsh law over corruption. More occupying troops will inevitably mean more civilian deaths, as the



U.S. then uses heavy firepower for “force protection.” Meanwhile, the cost of the war has already reached \$228 billion. If the U.S. instead supported an economic Marshall Plan for Afghanistan, it would still cost a fraction of maintaining a high technology army on hostile soil.

Please ask Congressman Hill (812-336-3000), Senator Lugar (202-224-

4814), and Senator Bayh (812-465-6500) to oppose funding for escalation and to insist on an exit strategy, together with generous humanitarian aid.

## Interfaith Winter Homeless Shelter Awarded Grant

– By Stephanie Estell

Each Fall the Social Justice Funds Committee solicits grant applications to continue our church’s long tradition of social justice leadership in Monroe County. Leonard Lundin’s legacy of giving is kept alive through two Lundin Social Justice Funds from which the money is awarded. The Funds Committee is excited to announce that an application submitted on behalf of the Bloomington Interfaith Winter Homeless Shelter has been awarded a \$1000 grant to help outfit a sheltering church with bedding for the project. Congratulations!

If you or your social justice task force is interested in applying for next Fall’s grants we encourage you to start preparation and ask questions along the way. Applications should meet the following criteria: Projects must be based in Monroe County and be consistent with the mission of our church. Priority will be given to applications from (1) Social Justice Task Forces, (2) projects that involve a significant number of the congregation, and (3) applications to seed new projects that will have an enduring benefit.

Request information from **blankenship.jennifer@gmail.com**.

