

The Prologue

January 3, 2006

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
Congregation founded 1949



Seeking the Spirit Building Our Community
Changing the World

Sunday, January 8, 2006 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

"From Star to Star: Cosmic, Karmic and Comic Reflections"

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

In this Sunday's worship service, Reverend Macklin will offer her annual review of and reflections on scientific discoveries and advances from the previous year. From the politics of evolution education to the discovery of new stars and planets, 2005 proved to be another interesting and challenging year in the realm of science. Let us, as liberal religious thinkers, ponder these things in mind and heart.

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**Sunday, January 15, 2006      9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

**"Let Freedom Ring: Reflections on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."**

**Reverend Bill Breeden and Reverend Mary Ann Macklin**

This Sunday follows our annual choir concert at the Wabash Valley Correctional Insitituion. The ringing of the bells of freedom has never been more pertinent than in these times. Bring a bell to ring if you wish. Our choir will share a gift of music.

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Faith in Action Forums 10:15-11:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Library

To schedule a Faith in Action Forum, contact Jackie Hall, jmhall@indiana.edu.

Feb 5, David Keppel, "Peak Oil Reform"

Feb 19, Karen Green Stone and Rob Stone, "Healthcare for All"

Happy New Year! How could we not look forward to a good 2006 for our church community? The services over the holidays were thoughtful, beautiful and full of meaning. Thanks to our resourceful and creative ministers, to the first class choir, to the musicians who shared their talents and inspiration, to all the readers, donors of flowers, creators of the window decor, those who served in unnamed ways and members who filled that Meeting Room with offerings of thanks, generosity and hope.

Thank you, Bill and Cookie Lynch, members since 1954.

MAM's Musings

Welcome to the New Year, January 2006, or as Reverend Breeden said in his reflections last Sunday,



"We Come to the New Year". Alas, I was not in attendance at the worship services on January 1st, because I was participating in an annual family ritual known as *polar bearing*. Yes, for the last 25 years (with only a few exceptions), I have plunged into icy cold waters as a way to welcome the new year. It is breath taking. Literally and figuratively. For me, *polar bearing* is an annual reminder that once one has set a goal which requires courage...that courage is not about the absence of fear, but feeling the fear and going forth, regardless. May we all discern our goals for the New Year, and then discover the courage to attain them. Take the plunge. Wahooooo!

January comes to us from the Roman God Janus, who is known as the deity of gates and doors, beginnings and ends. He is represented by two faces, one looking back at the past and the other looking forward into the future. Here are a few reflections of our Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington regarding our 2005 past and 2006 future.

2005. This past year has been one of transitions for staff and members. In deep gratitude, we bade farewell to long-time minister Reverend Barbara Carlson in June, and our Director of Religious Education, Lisa Minor, in November. Meanwhile, we welcomed aboard Cindy Port as our Acting Director of Religious Education, and have benefited greatly from the talents of Reverend Emily Manvel Leite who contracted to help with Intergenerational Services, Family Worship Services and Adult Education. During the past year, we have said good-bye to beloved

members and friends...we have also welcomed many new members and new leaders in our congregational community. We remain grateful to all who have served this community throughout the years with your vision, leadership and courage to take the plunge!

2006. Our religious education assistant, Kitty McIntosh and office assistant Martha Sattinger will be leaving their positions; both plan to continue their involvement with our congregational community. Thanks to Kitty and Martha for all their help. We look forward to welcoming the folks who will fill those positions. We have a Long Range Planning Task Force who will help facilitate a vision process for our congregation. Our Small Group Ministry Working Group hopes to meet with consultant Reverend Mellen Kennedy on January 28th. We have a visiting consultant, Reverend Barbara Child, on February 10 and 11, who will work with board, staff and visioning leadership regarding interim tasks, staff transitions, and organizational restructuring. We will have a special recognition of Long Time Members at our February 26th worship services.

And don't forget, the Heartland Unitarian Universalist District Meeting will be in Indianapolis this year, April 7th and 8th. The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly of Congregations will be nearby too, in St Louis, Missouri, June 22 through 27. We hope many of you can join these larger Unitarian Universalist gatherings as part of your 2006.

Let us plunge forward together,

mam

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin (MAM)

The Prologue January 3, 2005 Page 2

Community Connections
our faith in action in the community

Sleeping Bags Needed for Homeless Shalom Center is in desperate need of sleeping bags for individuals who are homeless in our area. See the following website for info on making homemade sleeping bags:
<http://www.reese.org/sharon/uglyquilt.htm>
Take finished bags to Shalom Center at First United Methodist Church. They don't need to be beautiful; they just need to be warm.
Pam Kinnaman, Volunteer Resource Coordinator
Shalom Community Center
kinnaman@bloomington.in.us

Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat Seeks Retreat Coordinator

Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat is seeking an interim Retreat Coordinator beginning September 2006. The term is for 4 to 5 months. The job entails coordinating personal and group retreat experiences in line with their mission of promoting nature as a source of renewal as well as sustainable practices. On-site housing is a possible option. For more information visit www.mtgileadfriendsretreat.org or contact Donna Eder at 812-332-1839. Interviews begin Feb. 1.

Attendance Figures

Sun, Dec 25 9 a.m. 18, 11:15 48, Totl 66
Sun, Jan 1 9 a.m. 53, 11:15 129, Totl 182

Team Ministry Our congregation is served by a ministry team: Rev. Mary Ann Macklin (82%); Rev. Bill Breeden (82%). Each minister serves the entire congregation; each has specific areas of focus.

Ministers' Schedules

Rev. Macklin's regular day off is Tuesday.

Office hours: M, T, Th, F

Her mobile number is 322-0205

Rev. Breeden's regular days off are W, Th

Office hours: M, T, F

His mobile number is 360-1779

Women's Alliance Meets Jan 5

The Women's Alliance will meet on Thursday, January 5, at 11:30 in Fellowship

Hall. Bring your own sack lunch, and drinks and dessert will be provided. Hostesses are Dixie Welch and Lynn Gilliatt.

Cookie Walk Thanks!

The Cookie Walk Committee wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to all those who baked (and baked and baked) cookies for the Bazaar. And a special thanks to you volunteer workers! Great job, everyone! and great fun for us, your Cookie Walk Committee,

Mary Bent, Julie Lawson, and Harriet Pfister. See you next year!!

Kitchen Clean-Up January 7

The Java Crew is going to clean-up the kitchen this Saturday. There are many, many unclaimed items there, some may be left over from the Bazaar. If you left containers, hotplates, or other equipment, please get them before January 8th. Things remaining will be donated to Goodwill.

Please help keep our kitchen clean.

--the Java Crew

Our Folks...

Our sympathy to the family of Scott and Ruth Sanders; Scott's mother, Eva Mary (Solomon) Sanders, passed away on December 7.

Fresca Sobrer will appear in *Dinner with Friends* at the John Waldron Arts Center, January 12-15, and 19-21.

The Prologue January 3, 2005 Page 7

Java Crew Training Jan 21

Saturday January 21, 9-11 am there will be a training to learn how to host our fellowship hour on



Sunday mornings. Bagels and juice will be served. Help keep the coffee flowing to the corners of our UU world. We need your help only 3-4 times a year. Please contact Jean Knowlton, 339-2047.

jbknowlt@bloomington.in.us, or Judy Bennett (bennettj@bloomington.in.us 331-4181).

Lunch with a Minister on the Second Monday of Each Month

Join Rev. Bill Breeden for lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon on the second Monday of each month. Next lunch is January 9.

Centering with MAM on Second Wednesdays beginning Jan. 11

Rev. Mary Ann Macklin will offer a monthly "Centering with MAM" meditative worship opportunity in the Library on the second Wednesday of each month, 6:00-6:45 p.m. beginning January 11.



Next Film Series Potluck and Viewing "Bend It Like Beckham," Saturday, Jan. 7, 6:00 pm

Potluck supper followed by a movie and discussion in Fellowship Hall. *Bend It Like Beckham* dir. Gurinder Chandra, 2003, PG-13. The Bhamra family, from East India, has settled in Great Britain. 18-year-old daughter Jessminder is preparing to play football (the British term for "soccer") -- which is not acceptable to her parents. Will she have the courage to follow her dreams? This fun and rousing film is a rich examination of cultures in collision. A great family film (PG-13).

No childcare this time.

Exploring Unitarian Universalism Class January 8 And 15

Newcomers are invited to register for the introductory class, Exploring Unitarian Universalism, which will be held on January 8 and January 15 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Both sessions are in the Fuchs Library on the second floor of the church. Call Libby DeVoe at edevoe@indiana.edu or 336-8688 for further information or to register.

Habitat Spring Break Trip

Looking for an alternative Spring Break? Join Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County's trip to El Salvador to help build simple, decent homes with families in need! Travel to El Salvador on Saturday, March 11 and return on Saturday, March 18. Cost is around \$1250 and includes round trip airfare and all food, lodging, transportation in El Salvador and travel medical insurance. The group will spend a day or two visiting sites in the country and then build with the Habitat affiliate in San Vicente, a city about the size of Bloomington, 45 miles east of the capital, San Salvador. Space is limited. Sign up before January 31, 2006. For more information or to sign up for the trip, contact Steven Sowell at 331-4069 or sowell@monroecountyhabitat.org.

The Prologue January 3, 2005 Page 6

A Day On Not a Day Off

We have a tradition for Martin Luther King Jr. Day in keeping with the Day On Not a Day Off idea. Families in our Religious Education program (RE) are invited to participate in an

event that we share with the families of the Congregation Beth Shalom Synagogue; it is also open to the wider community. This event has evolved over the last few years and it keeps getting better.

This year we will meet at 10 AM at Beth Shalom, located at 3750 E. 3rd St. The Bloomington Playwrights Project will present a short play based on the life of Ruby Bridges. We will then work together on a project for the Shalom Community Center. The Shalom Community center helps families that are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. The bags we put together contain a snack and some activities like crayons to help occupy the children that come into the center when their families are seeking help there. This will be a wonderful way to help our children understand why we celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and how we can honor him through community service.

Another way you can honor the life of Martin Luther King Jr. is to sign up to teach RE classes. RE teachers help children develop core values and demonstrate in a concrete way the importance of volunteering and creating community.

RE Calendar:

January 4th First Family Worship!!

5:15 PM Dinner

6:15 PM Worship

January 14th 9 AM Teacher Training for 2nd Sem.

January 16th 10-12 noon Martin Luther King Jr.

Day On not a Day Off,

at Beth Shalom, 3750 E. 3rd St.

Cindy Port, Acting Dir. of Religious Education
dre@uubloomington.org, 332-3695



Notably For Newcomers

The last "Notably for Newcomers" (Do UUs believe in Jesus?) prompted someone to ask me if

Unitarian Universalists believe in "God." This is how I see it, with a little help from my friends.

While there is among the uninformed a perception that Unitarian Universalists don't believe in God, it would be much more accurate to say that we don't have a single, defined, dogmatic concept of God in which all UUs are expected to believe. Each congregant is free, indeed encouraged, to explore and develop an understanding of God, or the more gender-inclusive God/dess, that is meaningful to her or him. They're also free to reject the term or concept altogether.

The word God is much abused. Too often the word seems to refer to a grandfatherly figure in the sky or to a super magician. Many UUs are apt to use terms other than God--for instance, Spirit of Life, or the sacred. But however we may call it, the mystery itself is always greater than the name we give it.

So God and believing in God mean different things to different UUs. Whatever the case may be, though, we try to be a loving, compassionate, accepting congregation in which each person is encouraged to discover in his or her own way the nature of the Holy, of what gives life meaning, purpose, and direction.

--Paul Lane for the Membership Committee

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The Prologue January 3, 2005 Page 3

UU Children's Choir-- Upcoming Schedule

Happy New Year! The UU Children's Choir's next singing opportunity will be to join other singers as part of a community-wide

MLK Day celebration. All past, present, and other interested UU children singers, grades Kg- 8th, are invited! We will learn a couple of songs in a couple of short weeks, and then sing on the evening of Monday, January 16th. Parents, please watch your e-mail boxes this week for more specific info. about the performance on the 16th. Until then, here is the schedule:

Sunday, January 8th: Rehearsal 10:15-11:00am, Rm. 210

Thursday, January 12th: 7:00-7:30pm Bonus rehearsal for those who want to or can make it! Rm. 210

Sunday, January 15th: Rehearsal 10:15-11:00am, Rm. 210

Monday, January 16th: Sing at MLK community celebration, evening; times and schedule TBA very soon!

Questions, contact Jill Waggener at jwaggene@mccsc.edu.

Long-Range Plan Group Appointed:

Focus Groups to be Held Soon

The Board of Directors has appointed a committee to update the church's long-range plan. Specifically, the group has been asked to draft a new long-range plan for 2006-2011 which incorporates a review mechanism. The Long Range Plan group will be holding focus groups in January and February. For more information, contact group members Alan Backler, Scott Burgins, Diane Gregory, Chris Haynes, Aleisha Kropf or Melinda Swenson.

Stewardship Campaign Kickoff Nears

Did you know that approximately 37% of the more than \$200 billion that Americans donate annually



goes to religious institutions? For many congregations, including our own, private contributions from members and friends constitute the primary source of income. Our church depends almost entirely on the financial pledges made each year during the annual operating budget campaign, which is about to begin.

This year's campaign, *Light the Fire of Commitment*, will allow us all to celebrate and reflect on the role of the UU Church of Bloomington in our lives-what we get from the church, and what we give to the church.

The Stewardship Committee will facilitate the campaign, and welcomes your questions, comments, or suggestions: Andrew Appel, Rev. Bill Breeden, David Cox, Anne Haynes, Steve Krahnke, Joe Lee, Harlan Lewis, Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, Carol Marks, Andrea Murray, Denise Ogren, Jan Skinner (co-chair), and Caroline Altman Smith.

The following quote guides the work of our committee: "Stewardship includes the way we encourage people to lead generous lives, and how we use all the resources at our command to strengthen our religious faith and make the world a better place. Fund raising includes the variety of methods we use to ask parishioners for money." -- from *Creating Congregations of Generous People* by Michael Durall.

Please stay tuned to upcoming issues of the Prologue for newsflashes about the exciting 2005-2006 campaign!

The Prologue January 3, 2006 Page 4

Our Newest Members

The following wonderful people signed our Membership Book on December 18.

Judith A. Epp and Beverly A. Camden have been life partners for 28 years. They are both retired and live on a small private lake in

rural Owen County. They enjoy fishing, boating and reading. Judi's the activist and the chair of our *Civil Marriage Is A Civil Right* Task Force. She also volunteers as a Tax-Aide at the Spencer Senior Center during tax season. Bev's a homebody and enjoys puttering around the house and garage with her Brittany Spaniel, Samantha, tagging along. They'd like to celebrate their 30th anniversary by getting married, somewhere.

Kelly Rauch (rhymes w/ WOW) has been a UU her whole life. She's been active in YRUU and local, district and continental Young Adult organizing in the Ohio-Meadville and Heartland districts. She went to IU for her undergraduate music degree in oboe and is currently working at the Division of Recreational Sports and exploring some new musical avenues. She loves to dance and run and swim and read and nap.

Kim Sackmann is a native of Auburn, NY. In college (1973 – 1984), she studied biology. Her career has focused on biomedical and basic science research. In 1981, she married Robert B. Sackmann. The couple has 1 child, Sarah, age 7. Kim's hobbies included aviation and horses. The family lives in Unionville. Kim says, "We had Sarah late; at 45! We feel UU will give her a good religious education."

Allison Tomusk was raised in the Unitarian church in Cincinnati and was a member of the Bloomington Church in the mid 80s when she was a graduate student here. After 16 years in Indy working in health care, she bought a small horse farm and moved back to Bloomington. She is a widow, a singer with the a cappella group, Kaia, and a soccer addict. Her daughter, Heili, is a freshman at BNHS.



Campus Ministry Meets Weekly at the Union

Indiana Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry (IUUCM), our new campus ministry group, meets starting January 11: Wednesdays at 8:30-9:30 p.m. in the Poplars Room in the Union Questions, contact Heather Hansen, Campus Ministry Coordinator, at heahanse@indiana.edu.

Religious Education Program Seeking a Glider and Some Toys

Our Religious Education Program would welcome donation of the following items:

A Glider Chair- suitable to rock babies in the back of the Meeting Room

Used Toys for the nursery- suitable for children 3 years and under. Contact Cindy Port, Acting Dir. of Religious Education, dre@uubloomington.org, 332-3695

WANTED: Reliable Used Laptop

For use with our video projector. Call 332-3695 or admin@uubloomington.org. Also, the beige extension cord that goes with the video projector is missing; please contact Carol Marks if you have info.

BULLETIN BOARD

OUR TOWN at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater January 12th-14th Professional, not-for-profit theatre: Cardinal Stage Company launches with Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. Tickets on sale at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater and Bloomingsfoods East.

The Prologue January 3, 2006 Page 5

office@uubloomington.org
Sound Manager: Tom Yeiser
soundmgr@uubloomington.org
The Prologue January 3, 2005 Page 5

The Prologue January 3, 2005 Page 5



Young Religious UUs Meet Every Sunday Except Christmas

Our high school youth (ages 14-20) will meet in Room 110 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on December 11 and 18. Info, contact Margie or Drew Schrader, maschrad@indiana.edu.

Large Print Materials Available

Each Sunday Large print orders of service and hymnals are available at all of our Sunday services. Hearing assist devices are also available. Please see the Greeters for any of these items. Large-print versions of the Prologue available upon request to Carol Marks, admin@uubloomington.org.

Parking Options on Sundays

Please remember that in addition to parking on all sides of our building, we can also park on Jordan Avenue, just a short walk to the south of the church property, on Sundays. The IU police have promised not to ticket us on Sundays.

The Prologue January 3, 2005 Insert Side B

Coffee Every Sunday, 10:00-

11:00 a.m.: Stay after or come early for our fellowship hour every Sunday between the services, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in

Fellowship Hall. Coffee, tea and conversation available.

Postings to Office First, Please

If you have an item of community interest to post on our bulletin board in the Courtyard entrance, please bring it to Room 204 and the staff will see that it is posted.

Staying Accessible

Our church makes a special effort to be sure our services and activities are accessible to folks of varying abilities; if you have a suggestion to help us do better, contact Carol Marks, admin@uubloomington.org.

Our Youth Groups Meet on Sunday Evenings

Our YUUMS, Young UU Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8) and YRUU, Young Religious UUs (ages 14-20), meet each Sunday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. For information on these programs, contact Barbara Moss, bmoss.indiana@sbcglobal.net for YUUMS, or for YRUU, Margie Schrader, maschrad@indiana.edu.

UU Board of Directors

Chris Clothier, President,
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vicepres@uubloomington.org
Andrew Appel, Treasurer,
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The Rev. Mary Ann Macklin
macklin@uubloomington.org
The Rev. Bill Breeden
breeden@uubloomington.org

Staff Team

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Church Administrator: Carol Marks
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Office Assistant

The Prologue January 3, 2005 Insert Side A