

The Prologue

March 13, 2006

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
Congregation founded 1949

Seeking the Spirit Building Our Community Changing the World



Sunday, March 19, 2006 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

"Remember the Sabbath Day" Rev. Emily Manvel Leite

As Spring Break week draws to a close, we will consider the importance of continuing to discover a place of rest in our busy lives, and how Sabbath-keeping can help make possible an ongoing commitment to social justice and personal growth.

An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and a friend of our congregation, Rev. Leite is serving us this year as a consultant for adult religious education and intergenerational worship; this Sunday she will be a guest in our pulpit.

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**Sunday, March 26, 2006    9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

**"Holy Gospel Rock Revival"    Rev. Mary Ann Macklin and Rev. Bill Breeden**

Join us in a celebration of the power and spirit of gospel music. Come to sing, dance, and share the good news of being who we are.

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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.

Coffee Every Sunday, 10:00 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.

The Guest House

This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness, Some momentary awareness come
As an unexpected visitor. Welcome and entertain them all!
...Meet them at the door laughing And invite them in.
Be grateful for whatever comes Because each has been sent
As a guide from beyond.

--Rumi

The West Window

As I drove home late last night, the spring peepers were deafening along Hardscrabble Road in Owen County. I walked out of the house this morning and was greeted by the silent beauty of six daffodil blooms. While I am sure that we have yet to see the last of the Old Man from the North, the invitations of the Lady of Spring announce that the time has come to plant, to dance and be joyful about the resurrection of life all around us.

What better time to look with hope to the future of this wonderful community? In the coming weeks, you will be called to be stewards of this rich heritage and pledge your support to it. Our Stewardship Committee has been working hard to provide information, not merely about our needs, but more importantly, about our opportunities. Rev. Macklin and I believe the future is bright for this church. Each week new people find it a place to celebrate the diversity of human spirit, a safe harbor from which to embark upon new journeys for the soul.

The major portion of our annual budget is based on the pledges of members and friends of the congregation. This year we would like for every person and/or family who finds solace and solidarity with this community to make a pledge. That is the meaning behind those 100% signs. Let us surprise ourselves with thanksgiving and generosity.

Two very special services are planned to celebrate this campaign. On March 26th, we will have a Gospel Sing and Celebration. The service will be a spiritual happening, with a gospel band and some guest singers. Come ready to dance, sing and celebrate. On April 2nd, Commitment

Sunday, the choir will bless us with the Latin American Mass, Misa Criolla by Ariel Ramirez. Two guest tenors, traditional instruments, and a drum made years ago by the youth of this church highlight this wonderful piece, another spiritual happening. Come to celebrate with us, and come prayerfully considering what you can do to make this year's campaign very special.

On behalf of the Ministry Team,

bill

Rev. Bill Breeden



Many Thanks As we do each year, we'll soon be celebrating a group of people who give especially generously to our church. The "Lead Event" is a thank-you party

for the folks who, by giving money and time in great amounts, are key to making our worthy projects and goals happen.

This social hour, organized by the Stewardship Committee, is set for the afternoon of March 26. It will be a thank-you gesture to the people who have served in elected leadership positions or have given \$1,200 (\$2,400 for couples) or more to the church this year.

--The Stewardship Committee

Ministers' Schedules

Rev. Macklin's regular day off is Tuesday.

Office hours: M, T, Th, F

Rev. Macklin will be away March 6-19

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

Office hours: M, T, F

His mobile number is 360-1779

Community Connections our faith in action in the community

Haines Turner and Herb Kiesling Award Nominees Sought

The Community Justice & Mediation Center invites nominations of individuals, groups or businesses for its annual Haines Turner and Herb Kiesling Awards.

The Haines Turner Award recognizes significant contributions to the development of justice that heals and restores in the Monroe County community. The Herb Kiesling Award recognizes activity that makes public policy or private organizations more responsive to the needs of children and youth in the community. Nominees who have received little public recognition or payment for their efforts are sought.

For information and nomination forms call 812-336-8677, visit www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate, or e-mail cjam@bloomington.in.us. Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2006.

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.

Lunch with a Minister on the Third Monday of April

Join Rev. Bill Breeden for lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon on the third Monday of April. Next lunch is April 17.

Centering with MAM on Fourth Wednesday

Rev. Mary Ann Macklin will offer a monthly "Centering with MAM" meditative worship opportunity in the Library on the fourth Wednesday of March, 6:00-6:45 p.m. on March 22. Childcare provided, Room 108.

Elementary Aged UUs and Parents: Springtime Stories and Activities March 25

Elementary aged UUs (6 and older) and their parents are invited to an afternoon of springtime stories and crafts in Fellowship Hall on March 25 from 2:30 to 4:30. Members of the Children's Task Force of our church will tell and read stories and provide lots of activities to get you in the mood for spring. Also attending will be the First Friends of Big Brothers Big Sisters, kids who are on the waiting list to be matched with a "Big." Come for an afternoon of fun and creativity and friend-making. Questions? Call Martha Nord at 339-7403.

Being Green March 25 at the Clothing Swap

It is easy being Green! Recycle your gently-used clothing at the Spring Clothing Swap on March 25, 9am to 12pm. Bring clean, good-condition clothing you no longer need, and take what you can use. No money exchanged! Kids - Men's - Women's -- all sizes! Save money, have fun, and best of all, contribute to a greener planet by helping to reduce consumption. Leftover clothing will be donated to an appropriate charity. For more info contact Stephanie Kimball (stephanie@k-creations.com). Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change.

100%

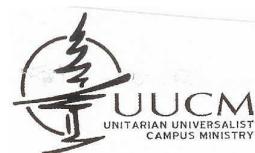


Why We Pledge

Our advanced years have almost negated our church activity, so that we are known only to a minority of our church's members. We continue to pledge annually, not only to perpetuate an institution we helped to found, but to provide needed services to persons we will never know. --Ledford and Julia Carter

Donations for Talent Auction Due March 19

Donation forms for the UU Talent Auction are due March 19. Please fill out a donation form and send it to the church, or to Mark Day, 1104 S. Covenanter Dr. Bloomington, IN 47401. 336-3094. Forms are available in Room 204, at <http://www.uubloomington.org/prologue/060227w.htm>, and are available by email from Mark Day at marktday@gmail.com. Completed forms may also be e-mailed to marktday@gmail.com.



Campus Ministry Notes

Indiana Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry, (IUUCM), our campus

ministry group, meets Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. in the Poplar Room at the Union. --Heather Hansen, Campus Ministry Assistant

UU Passover Seder April 12

The UU Seder will be held Weds, April 12 at sundown. Save the date and look for details later. This year we are hoping to make the event even more child friendly than ever. Join the planning committee! Our first meeting will be Sunday, March 26 @ 12:30 in the Library. --Ruellen Fessenbecker

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Budget Proposals Due April 2

Reminder to all committee chairs: budget proposal requests for the 2006-07 fiscal year are due to Andrew Appel, Treasurer, treasurer@uubloomington.org, by Sunday, April 2. You may submit proposals electronically to the above email address or on paper in Andrew Appel's mailbox in Room 204. Forms on paper are available in Room 204, and the electronic version is at <http://uubloomington.org/budget/New%20Nonwage%20Template.xls>

It is password protected. You'll be prompted for an id and a password. The id is: **budget** and the password is **budget0607**.

Attendance Figures

Sun, Mar 5 9 a.m. 98, 11:15 210, Totl 308
Sun, Mar 12 9 a.m. 67, 11:15 164, Totl 231

Sunday Plate Offering Figures

Sun, Mar 5 non-pledge offering: \$459
Of this amount, \$115 will be donated to the Community Justice and Mediation Center
Sun, Mar 12 non-pledge offering: \$268
Of this amount, \$67 will be donated to the Community Justice and Mediation Center

Nominations for 25% Donations Due March 31

If you would like to nominate a social service agency in our community to receive 25% of our weekly Sunday non-pledge offering for the 2006-07 fiscal year, be sure to complete your application by March 31. See details in the February 27 issue of the Common Ground, or contact Joan Caulton or Carol Parks.

Since July 1, 2005, our current recipient, the Community Justice and Mediation Center, has received a total of \$3,438 from our congregation.

This Little Light of Mine

"This Little Light of Mine" is one of our children's favorite songs. Last Sunday Jennifer Livesay and I used this as our theme for our large group event.

We asked the children, "What do you think 'This Little Light of Mine' means?" We got some interesting responses. Abe Leite raised his hand first and said, "I don't think it is about ideas about inventions." Jennifer and I thought that maybe it could be, and then Abe said, "How about all sorts of ideas?" His brother Jonathan said, "Maybe it's about light and happiness." After Jennifer read a story Abe concluded, "A talent you have is your light."

When we asked children during second service, we heard Anisa Curry-Vietze say, "I always thought it was a flower, like a sunflower." "Something in your heart or something" was suggested by Adrian Cox-Thurman. Kalina Gilbert thought maybe "This Little Light of Mine" meant a "path that shows you the way through your life."

Because we believe the children have a 'light' to contribute to our congregation, the Stewardship Committee asked them to decorate flames for the upcoming campaign. I tried to explain this to the children and asked what they thought the church needs money for. "About everything that's here cost money at some point" said Satchel Wyatt. Abe Leite agreed; "We might use it to make the church better if they can; for instance, to expand the church because there is not enough room for everybody and to have a third service." Maemie Blankenship summed it up by saying that the church uses money to make it "a better place."

Next Sunday the children will practice making the world a better place by celebrating the Spring Equinox together. --Cindy Port, Acting Director of Religious Education dre@uubloomington.org



Notably For Newcomers More Affirmations of Faith

In the last issue of The Prologue I cited some faith affirmations from the Rev. William F. Schulz, a past president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and currently executive director of Amnesty International USA. His affirmations, which are probably acceptable to most UUs, are continued in this issue.

"Human beings themselves are responsible for this planet and its future. Social justice is a religious obligation. The future is never fated.

"Every one of us is held in the Creator's hand -- we share its burdens and its radiance -- and hence strangers need not be enemies. The interdependent web of all existence offers an embrace to everything and everyone. Our only inherent enemies are violence, poverty, injustice, and oppression. The earth is our cherished home.

"Though death confronts us all, we love life all the more even though we lose it. An honorable and impassioned life may not deny death its due, but it can surely rob it of victory."

I'll share more of Rev. Schulz's thoughts with you in the next issue of The Prologue.

--Paul Lane, for the Membership Committee

100%



Everyone Can Help

When I joined the Stewardship Committee last fall, I somewhat naively asked, "Why do we always keep asking the same people to pledge more? Wouldn't it make more sense to ask everyone to pledge at least something?" After a moderately stunned silence, it became clear that there wasn't a simple answer to that question. But after a while we set a goal of 100% participation, partly as a result of my question-a question it turns out many people find uncomfortable.

But at the risk of being offensive, I was bothered that only a little more than half of the people who consider the UU Church of Bloomington to be their church pledge financial support. Put another way, 50% of us pay for what 100% of us enjoy.

Aside from the complicated issue of sharing a common burden, what would happen if we had 100% participation? Well, we would continue to honor our financial commitments, like any good business, family, or individual. We would be able to continue to pay down our mortgage; our heat and light bills; our professional staff; and we would maintain our religious education and music programs.

But we all know that paying our bills is only part of the challenge--we need to think about the future. A new and safer playground? Better sound in the meeting room? More music? Better pay and benefits for our ministerial and administrative staff? More materials for religious education?

And what about inevitable big expenses? A new roof? A new West Window Tree? New hymnals? These expenses require new income to help balance the bare-bones budget we have now.

When you receive your pledge brochure this year, take a close look at the numbers. They make it abundantly clear that the financial health--current and future--of our church fairly depends on 100% participation. "Do we want our liberal religious community to thrive, or merely to survive?" If we actually come close to 100% participation, I think we'll have an answer.
--Steve Krahnke

UU Children's Choir Upcoming Schedule

*No rehearsal March 19th-Spring Break.
*Sunday March 26th 10:15-11:00am, (Rm 212)
*Thursday March 30th, 7:00-7:30pm, Extra Rehearsal for those who can come, Room TBA (this is an addition to the previous schedule.)
*Sunday, April 2nd- Commitment Sunday. Meet at 8:30am in Room 212. Sing at both services (Prelude & Children's Moment in both services); rehearse & relax in between.
Questions? Contact Jill Waggener at jwaggene@mccsc.edu or 330-8829.

100%



Young Religious UU Meetings

Our high school youth (ages 14-20) will meet in Room 110 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the following Sundays in the next month or so: March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9. No meeting April 16. Info, Margie or Drew Schrader, maschrad@indiana.edu.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Keith Romaine

Professional fiber artist since 1973, and a UU since age 6. Doctoral candidate writing about how art can make community and spaces work. Building a straw bale co-housing/dining addition called the Convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Creates public art events such as the Lotus World Music Festival Parade and the Pride Film Festival Party. Deeply committed to community, beauty, and self-expression within the sacred space of the fool.

Amy Cornell

Amy Cornell has lived in Bloomington for about 15 years. She is married to Geoff McKim and they have one son, Grayson McKim, who is in the second grade. Amy works at Indiana University in the Department of Communication and Culture. She enjoys reading, writing, travel, cooking and hanging out with her friends. Geoff and Amy are in the process of adopting a baby girl from China. They are excited to travel to China at about the end of 2006 to bring their new daughter home.

UU Variety Show Canceled

The UU Variety Show previously scheduled for April 7 has been canceled.

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BULLETIN BOARD

NEED HOUSING. Couple seeks lodging while visiting Music School in May/June. Will house-sit or swap apartment in Amsterdam. Email reflynn@indiana.edu.
FREE 2-Part Reading/Workshop. Writing From Life: Memoir and Fiction, Mar 25, Reading 10 a.m., Workshop 2 p.m. Visiting author, Agate Nesaule. Details: Beth Lodge-Rigal, blodgeri@bluemarble.net
HELP WANTED-ART GALLERY: Part-time Sales Associate, enthusiastic, art interest, retail experience, flexible, trustworthy, attention to detail. Apply in person. Wandering Turtle Art Gallery & Gifts, 224 N. College.

What is General Assembly?

An amazing annual conference of thousands of Unitarian Universalists with workshops, forums, worship and more! This June it is within easy driving distance, in St. Louis. See uua.org/ga.

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Faith in Action Forum:

Mar. 5, Cynthia Bretheim, "Urban Permaculture by Bill Mollison"

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.

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.

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 do not ticket us on Sundays.

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 administrative staff will see that it is posted.