

The Prologue

March 19, 2007

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
Congregation founded 1949

***Seeking the Spirit Building Our Community
Changing the World***



Wednesday, March 21 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Centering with Music And Meditation (MAM)

This small meditation worship service held in the Library and will be led by Reverend Mary Ann Macklin). Please join us for this time to take pause, relax and focus on the breath.

Sunday, March 25, 2007 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place"

Reverend Bill Breeden and Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

A celebration of singing and being who we are! Join us for this celebratory worship of spirit and song which honors the many gifts of the community as we engage our annual pledge drive. We are all in this together.

Sunday, April 1, 2007 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

"We Are All In This Together! A Commitment Sunday Celebration"

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Bill Breeden

The ministers, along with the Stewardship Committee, invite you celebrate our Commitment Sunday service. We will have special music from our Unitarian Universalist Adult Choir, directed by Susan Swaney and our Children's Choir, directed by Jill Waggener. Join us as we celebrate together and make our financial pledge commitments to this liberal religious community. Breakfast will be served as part of the morning's festivities: for earlybirds, 8-9 a.m., and also between services, 10-11:15 a.m. Stepping Stones residents and staff will be volunteering at the Commitment Sunday Breakfast to show appreciation to our congregation for being this year's recipient of the 25% Sunday Offering Fund.

All-Church Retreat Registrations Due March 31 Registration for the "Earth Celebrational, All Congregational, Intergenerational Unitarian Universalist Retreat" continues between worship services each Sunday. This overnight retreat, April 13-14, is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change and will be held at Camp Rancho Framasa in Brown County. Please note that **registration ends March 31 due to camp requirements**. A few scholarships are available. Contact Rev. Macklin.

Faith in Action Forums

Take place in the Library on Sunday, 10:15-11:30 a.m. (Contact Jackie Hall, jmhall@indiana.edu, to schedule a forum.) Forum topics are listed in *The Prologue* as scheduled.

From the Ministers

We are all in this together!

It is time to gratefully remember the many gifts of this liberal religious community as we each prepare to make a financial pledge to support it again. Our annual pledge drive has begun and will culminate with our Commitment Sunday Service on April 1st. Some might think it *foolish* to continually support a dream of a better world for our children and grandchildren in today's world of cynicism and challenge. But then, not everyone has experienced the "Sweet, Sweet Spirit of This Place," our Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington.

We, who understand the value of a religious education program for all ages, celebrate the presence of a whole new generation of children exploring the values of tolerance and diversity, the power of forgiveness and acceptance, and the mystery of the interconnected web of life of which we are a part. We know that our dream is enhanced by the work of our Religious Education leaders, Cindy Port and Reverend Emily Manvel Leite. We enjoy the power of music to touch our hearts and lift our spirits in new ways as the music program of this church has grown under the leadership of Music Director Susan Swaney and pianist Sally Todd.

We also know that our church administrator extraordinaire Carol Marks makes the many celebrations, memorials, special events, and the daily work of this congregation not only possible but meaningful.

As ministers of this congregation, we give heartfelt thanks that y'all help keep this dream alive! Last year we set a new high water mark for the pledge drive. This year we need to raise it higher. As we have grown, so have our dreams and needs. Truly *we are all in this together*, and we ask that each of you give prayerful thought to how much this community means to you, and how much you will pledge financially to continue the vision of the "Sweet, Sweet Spirit of this Place."

This year's pledge campaign is here now. Again, Commitment Sunday is April 1st. No Foolin'. Please read the articles in this Prologue written by members of this community who believe it is far from foolish to believe in this dream.

In the faith,
MAM and Bill
Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and
Reverend Bill Breeden

Special Congregational Meeting, Sunday, April 22

The Board of Directors has called a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, April 22 at 12:30 p.m. in our Meeting Room, so that the membership can discuss the shifting of funds in connection with renewal of our mortgage loan. The five-year bank note supporting the church mortgage has been renewed. Interest rates are higher. The Finance Committee and the Board have recommended investing \$25,000 of reserve funds in building equity. This will avoid a \$4,600 increase in the operating budget mortgage line for the next fiscal year. Shifting these funds requires approval of the membership of the congregation; hence the need for a special meeting. Plan to attend. Childcare provided.

Our Growing Family Ministry

Our Religious Education program for children and youth places a heavy emphasis on celebrating children's *individuality* and nurturing their *individual* search for truth and meaning. It is rare for children or youth to attend church as individuals, like everyone else; children usually come to us as family members.

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite and I recently attended a Family Ministry workshop in Indianapolis with members of our religious education committee. We hoped for inspiration to improve our efforts. What was most inspirational, however, was listing what we are already doing which reflects the commitment our congregation and ministers have already made to family ministry. This is evident in our worships, programming and budget. The addition of a Minister of Religious Education to our staff is a strong statement of our commitment to families and has broadened our resources and programming tremendously.

According to the workshop's leader Nancy Combs-Morgan, one of our former Directors of Religious Education, Rev. Phil Lund, is now considered the UU "guru" of family ministry. When I worked with Phil Lund as the RE Assistant 8 years ago, we dreamed of the day we would have children's moments every Sunday, regular family events and childcare for church programs. One of the reasons these dreams have come true is that our church has continually increased its financial support to family ministry and religious education. Reflecting on how much our family ministry has grown makes me feel especially blessed to be a part of this congregation. Cindy Port, Acting DRE



Notably for Newcomers

Membership in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington is open to anyone 18 years of age or older who is in sympathy with the purposes of the church. The UU congregation asks three things of new members.

Participate, Pitch in and Pledge. All three things are important.

We **pledge** because the church cannot run without money. All members of the congregation are asked to give what they are able. When you pledge your dollars to the Unitarian Universalist church your money goes to pay the salaries of our hardworking ministerial team, it goes to pay the heating, lighting and cleaning bills of the church facility. It goes toward campus ministry. It goes toward music. Many things we enjoy about our mission and facility could not take place without money. While we understand every family has different means, we ask you to pledge financial support to the work of the congregation as you are able. Work toward a goal of 3% to 5% of your family income. Know that you are welcome here, whatever you are able to give.

Amy Cornell,
for the Membership Committee



We're All in This Together!

A Testimony

by Beth Lodge-Rigal

In one of my favorite poems, Alison Luterman writes of *the invisible work that stitches up the world day and night, the slow, unglamorous work of healing*. She boldly claims that the work of the heart “is the world’s work”.

In addition to all that is discernable, pleasurable and provocative, in our experience of Sundays and other events at our church, it is still the invisible work that stitches this UU Community together to create the container for our spiritual, educational and healing journeys. It is the nature of the beast that churches such as ours are run to a large degree by the work of volunteers *and* by the “above-and-beyond-the-call of duty” provided by our paid staff.

Yeah, but...

We depend in untold ways on our paid professional staff to set a standard for the quality of experience we’ve come to enjoy in our church community. The time and energy that Bill, Mary Ann and Sue Swaney put in “behind the scenes” far exceed the hours they are paid for. The hours Carol Marks spends in the church office handling everything from bills to the master calendar, to bathroom supplies and a never-ending list of administrative duties that keep this church humming smoothly are unseen by most of us.

This is also true of the often-still-invisible work of serving our children.

Cindy Port and Emily Leite, our acting DRE and MRE, are devoted to connecting new and returning families to the church in meaningful ways. They design curriculum and family worship services, recruit teacher volunteers, attend countless meetings, offer teacher support, and hold the center of a program with a degree of professionalism that in the past year has grown by leaps and bounds.

Dan and I came to this church because we believe it supports the work of the heart, mind and spirit, and because it challenges us to consider ourselves in a broader community context. We began coming here almost 10 years ago because we wanted our children to be exposed to the possibilities for growth inside this liberal religious community. They wanted to be here. They have benefited and have been shaped inside of this family.

I believe that when we support, as Alison Luterman suggests, “the work of the world” in meaningful (monetary and/or energetic) ways *as we are able to*, we no longer participate in unconsciously devaluing this most important work and the people who understand its importance. A successful stewardship campaign will help us acknowledge **and pay for** the kind of professional leadership and high standard of service required for this community’s growth and sustainability.

--Beth Lodge-Rigal 3/14/07



We're All in This Together! **A Testimony by Judi Epp**

I came to this congregation specifically because they were a Welcoming Congregation to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) community. I couldn't believe there was a congregation that not only welcomed me but would be righteously angry on my behalf at the injustices done to the LGBTQ community.

I've been the chairperson of the Civil Marriage Is A Civil Right Task Force in this church. The money used to run this congregation allows us to have a place to meet and gives us the opportunity to educate the congregation on this important issue as well as other issues vital to the LGBTQ community. As a result we've sent hundreds of postcards and letters to legislators and given those in this congregation information to respond to the anti-LGBTQ attitudes they encounter.

I give to this church because this liberal community is vital to my spiritual well-being.
--Judi Epp

Sabbatical Scoop

The Sabbatical Committee continues its work to create opportunities for the congregation during Reverend Mary Ann Macklin's Sabbatical which will take place August 1 through mid-December. Plan A is based on our grant request to the Lilly Endowment with a response expected by June 1. Plan B is our backup plan if we do not get the grant. In either case we are planning a time of rejuvenation for our congregation as well as a time of restoration for Reverend Macklin.

Both plans include some pulpit supply and ministering by Reverend Barbara Child, who brings a wealth of knowledge as an experienced Unitarian Universalist trained interim minister. An engaging preacher, Reverend Child is also a consultant on congregational organization. Her involvement with the UUA's Committee on Appraisal fits very well with our congregational emphasis during the Sabbatical time, which will *Our Unitarian Universalist Identity*.

Our *Minister Emerita* Reverend Barbara Carlson will also be available for occasional ministerial duties.

Our congregation will have the opportunity to reenergize and reaffirm its commitment during this upcoming Sabbatical; this time of temporary change can stimulate growth and renewal for all of us if we choose. The Sabbatical Committee plans include fun activities such as special music, a congregational picnic, and chalice making.

Let's all prepare to creatively revitalize ourselves during the Sabbatical!

Sabbatical Committee: Andrew Appel, Jason Hill, Beth Hollingsworth, Clarke Miller, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, ex officio, and Reverend Bill Breeden, ex officio.

UUs Changing the World

(Look for longer articles about our social justice activities in the Common Ground insert in the second Prologue each month.)

Interfaith Habitat Build Kick-Off Breakfast April 8

Why pay for an expensive Easter brunch when you can have a delicious, reasonably-priced breakfast in the company of your church friends on April 8? Please help the UU Habitat for Humanity Task Force kick-off its fund-raising drive to sponsor a Habitat house with several other church congregations. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, roasted potatoes, muffins and fruit served in fellowship hall from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. All proceeds will go toward the cost of building a Habitat home.

Help stop SJR 7, the proposed amendment to write discrimination into the State Constitution. This will be coming to a vote in the Indiana House of Representatives in the next few days. Contact your Representatives and let them know your opposition to SJR 7. To find your IN State Representative, go to:

<http://www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/> and enter your zip code and indicate "Indiana House" under the "Elected Office" option. Without internet access? Call the reference desk at MCPL at 349-3050. The address to send your post cards and letters: Name of your Representative, Indiana House of Representatives, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786. You may contact your Representative by phone (less effective than by mail) at: (317) 232-9600 or (800) 382-9842. Also, letters to State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, Speaker of the House, at the address above, are very important. Now is the time to speak out against discrimination!



BOUNTY-FULL SUNDAY

April 1

Collection for Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) Food Pantry
Immediate needs at Monroe County Ministries FOOD PANTRY include:
Canned Fruit, Canned Salmon
Vegetable Soup, Healthful Snacks

A grocery cart will be located in the back of the meeting room April 1 to receive your donations. Thank you for your support of MCUM.

2007 Talent Auction Raises \$13,038 for Church! A gigantic thank you and hug to all of you who helped with this year's Talent Auction, including the 92 donors of auction items, 50 volunteers, and 55 buyers! A special note of appreciation to auctioneers Darrell & Bill Breeden, musicians Craig Brenner, Michelle Giansante & Beverly McGahey, and Jolais the Clown (alias Joe Lee) for making the event an evening of fun and magic. --The Talent Auction Committee

Ready to Sign the Book?

If you are prepared for the commitment of membership in our liberal religious community, the next opportunity to sign the Membership Book is Sunday, April 15 between the services at 10:30 in the Meditation Room on the 2nd floor. (Please note: We recommend participation in our "Exploring UU" class prior to signing the book.) To make arrangements for signing the book, please contact Stephanie Wilson at 812-339-1247 or stephw7@sbcglobal.net no later than Wednesday, April 11.

Community Connections **Our faith in action in the community**

Singers of United Lands Seek Host Family Accommodations A team of young adult musicians (3 women and two men) are seeking overnight housing for Monday night March 26th, 2007. They ask for private (one person per room) accommodations. Unitarian Universalists in the Heartland have been hosts to this group in past weeks. For more information on the group visit their web-site www.singersofunitedlands.org. If you are willing to be a host, contact Reverend Mary Ann Macklin macklin@uubloomington.org or 332-3695 by Friday, March 23rd.

THIS VAST BEING: A Community Celebration and Conversation on Death, Loss, Grief and the Resurrection of the Human Spirit

Sunday, April 15, 7-9 p.m., Tutto Bene.

This event will showcase stories and artistry of people who have transformed grief through creativity and invite us all to deepen the conversation. Joe Bourne to host singers Voces Novae, Paula Bourne, and Frances Miller, sculptress Gail Hale, psychic Johnny Belinda Ramey, author Ann Kreilkamp, and others. Info, call Ann at 812-334-1987.

Advocate for Youth? Work for Justice?

Nominations Sought for 2007 Kiesling and Turner Awards

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

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. The Haines Turner award recognizes significant contributions to the development of justice that heals and restores in the Monroe County community.

Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2006. Info, 812-336-8677, www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate, or cjam@bloomington.in.us.

Team Ministry

Our congregation is served by a ministry team: Rev. Mary Ann Macklin and Rev. Bill Breeden. 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, W, Th, F

Her mobile number is 322-0205.

macklin@uubloomington.org

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

Office hours: M, T, F

His mobile number is 360-1779.

breeden@uubloomington.org

Lunch with a Minister

Have lunch with a minister once a month. Rev. Breeden invites all who wish to attend to bring a brown bag lunch and join him in Fellowship Hall on Monday, April 16 at 12 noon.

The Prologue is published on alternate Mondays with exceptions by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana, Inc., 2120 N. Fee Ln, Bloomington, IN 47408-1646. March 19, 2006 Issue Carol Marks, Editor, admin@uubloomington.org

Attendance Figures

Sun, Mar 11, 9:00– 97; 11:15– 143; Totl 240

Religious Ed.: 9:00 9 children, 4 adults
11:15 20 children, 6 adults

Sun, Mar 18, 9:00– 72; 11:15– 183; Totl 255

Religious Ed.: not available

Sunday Offering Figures

Sun, Mar 11 non-pledge offering: \$77

Sun, Mar 19 non-pledge offering: \$104

Total to Stepping Stones Inc.: \$181



Group Drumming Workshop Mar 23

Ages 11 to adult, Free

Friday, March 23 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Room 210, Colleen Haas will provide an introduction to group drumming workshop. The workshop is designed to provide participants with some basic hand drumming skills.

Previous experience is not necessary. Bring a drum(s) or other hand held percussion.

April 29 Book Signing for John Crosby's *The Flipside of Godspeak*

The congregation is warmly invited to attend a book signing for John Crosby's *The Flipside of Godspeak: Theism as Constructed Reality* on Sunday, April 29, from 10:00 to 11:00am in Fellowship Hall. A member of our congregation, John is an emeritus professor of marriage and family studies and therapy and a former Presbyterian pastor. Come celebrate with John and enjoy refreshments (provided by the Merry Gardeners Chalice Circle) and an opportunity to talk with John about his newest book. *The Flipside of Godspeak* will be available for purchase (\$17, cash or check) and signing by the author.

The Flipside of Godspeak is highly recommended by UU Elizabeth Lion: "If you want to get into an entirely new construction, read this book!"

-- Booktable Committee

Lake Geneva Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly, often referred to as LGSA, has moved about 40 miles north from Lake Geneva to the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. LGSA is now Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA) and will be held July 1-7, 2007. Only the name and location has changed; all of the wonderful programs and people will remain. Rev. Bill Breeden is the theme speaker this year.

Access the 2007 MUUSA brochure at www.muusa.org, or contact Susan Porter at msrporter@aol.com or 317-251-7346.



Saturday Film Series, Sat, April 21

Potluck @ 6 PM, Film @ 6:30

The Adult Religious Education Film Series in April the 3rd Saturday, April 21. "The Laramie Project" is the story of prejudice in a Wyoming town which led to the beating death of Matthew Shepherd.

Seeking a Campus Ministry Assistant

Applications due 3/24/07

The campus ministry program is looking for a new assistant to work with the university community beginning in 2007. The position (\$8 per hour; approximately 60 hours per semester and 25 hours in the summer, divided weekly) carries the expectation of working Sunday mornings but otherwise flexible scheduling. Responsibilities include

active congregational and campus outreach, leadership development, and organizing connections between people and groups. Send a letter and resume to UU Church of Bloomington, Attn: Campus Ministry, 2120 N. Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408. Inquiries: Katie Peebles (campus ministry chair), 812-857-2235, kpeebles@indiana.edu

Membership Committee Seeks Participants

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Are you passionate about sharing our UU principles and beliefs? Do you want to see our congregation continue to grow in spirit and number? Then join the Membership Committee! The committee is crucial to the health of our congregation. Responsibilities include: teaching the Exploring UU class, organizing and conducting the new member book signing, hosting twice-a-year new member potlucks and discussions, organizing the reception for the Membership Celebration service each February, and much more! We need you! Please contact Stephanie Wilson, stephw7@sbcglobal.net or 812-339-1247, with questions or to indicate your interest in joining this FUN group!

Carol McCord Speaks To Alliance April 5

Carol McCord, Assistant Dean of Women's Affairs at IU and UU Church member, is the scheduled speaker at the Thursday, April 5, 2007 meeting of the Women's Alliance. Her topic is "How Unitarian Universalism Has Affected My Life and My Career Path." A brown bag luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, with beverages and dessert to be provided by the hostesses Dolores Freiburger and Roberta Watson. The program begins at 12 noon. Anyone needing babysitting services should call Harriet Pfister (339-3364) by Friday, March 30. Everyone is most welcome to attend the meeting.



2007 GA PORTLAND OR

Anyone interested in attending the UUA General Assembly in June 20 - 24 in Portland, please contact Iris Kiesling (332-5224) or the church office AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Registration fees, airline and hotel costs all go up in April. There is some

financial assistance available from our congregations for members who serve as delegates to the Assembly.

25% Sunday Plate Collection for Social Justice: Nominations due March 30



The process for selecting an agency to receive the 25% of the Sunday non-pledge offering for the next fiscal year is underway. An application form and a set of guidelines are available for the nomination of an agency that you would like these funds to support. Request the application electronically from either Joan Caulton (336-0455 or jcaulton@insightbb.com) or Carol Parks (336-1592 or pearlparks@gmail.com). Applications are due March 30.

--Carol Parks, Social Justice Funds Cmte



UU Children's Choir Schedule

Sun. March 25th: Regular Rehearsal, 10:15-11am Rm 212

Sun. April 1st: Commitment Sunday, Sing in Church (Woody Guthrie Songs)

Sun. April 8th: Tentative Shortened Rehearsal, 10:30-11am, Rm 212.

Sun. April 15th: NO REHEARSAL- I will be out of town

THURSDAY April 19th: 7:00-7:45 pm Extra Rehearsal for those that can make it; Room 212.

Sun., Apr 22nd: Earth Day Intergenerational Service, Sing in Church
Questions? Contact Jill Waggener: jwaggene@mccsc.edu or 330-8829

Chalice Circles Always Open

If you would like to be a part of one of our Chalice Circles small groups, be sure to contact the church office. You may join a Chalice Circle at any time. There is always room for more.

UU Board of Directors

Jason Hill, President, pres@uubloomington.org

Jan Skinner, Vice President, vicepres@uubloomington.org

Lloyd Orr, Treasurer, treasurer@uubloomington.org

Dorothy Sowell, Secretary, secretary@uubloomington.org

Chris Clothier, Past President, pastpres@uubloomington.org

At Large Board Members: David Cox, Steve Dillon, Dick Hiatt, Chris Judge, Karen Jewell, Bobbi Lahre, GK Rowe

Ministers and Staff

The Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, macklin@uubloomington.org

The Rev. Bill Breeden, breeden@uubloomington.org

Acting Dir. of Religious Education: Cindy Port, dre@uubloomington.org

Acting Minister of Religious Education: The Rev. Emily Marvel Leite, mre@uubloomington.org

Religious Education Asst.: Malissa Hawkins, rea@uubloomington.org

Childcare Coordinator: Adrienne Summerlot

Music Director: Susan Swaney, music@uubloomington.org

Pianist: Sally Todd, pianist@uubloomington.org

Children's Choir Director: Jill Waggener, jwaggene@mccsc.edu

Campus Ministry Assistant: Heather Hansen, uucampus@uubloomington.org

Church Administrator: Carol Marks, admin@uubloomington.org

Office Assistant: Aimee Osmundsen, office@uubloomington.org

Sound Manager: Tom Yeiser, soundmgr@uubloomington.org

Cleaning Services: Commercial Cleaners, Inc.