



**Unitarian Universalist Church
of Bloomington, Indiana, Inc.**
Annual Report to the Congregation
Sunday, June 5, 2011



Current Membership: 470
Certified Membership: 452

Board of Directors (through June 30, 2011)

Steve Dillon, President; Carol McCord, Vice President; John Lawson, Treasurer;
Chris Haynes, Secretary

At Large: Abby Gitlitz, Denise Ogren, Kevin Rottet

Ministers The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and the Reverend Bill Breeden

Minister Emerita The Reverend Barbara Carlson

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington Minutes of the June 6, 2010 Congregational Meeting

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- * Motion to Adjourn

Call to order by G.K. Rowe, President, at 4:07 PM

Chalice Lighting and Reading by Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Bill Breeden

G.K. Rowe introduced Guy Loftman as Parliamentarian.

Change and Management Transition

Libby DeVoe and Jackie Hall made a presentation on the dynamics of congregational change.

President G.K. Rowe made presented a overview of organizational lifecycle stages.

Reverend Bill Breeden and Reverend Mary Ann Macklin presented an illustration of our current organizational structure, in which our co-ministers, in their ministerial role, and the Board of Directors report directly to the congregation, and in administrative matters our Executive Minister, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, reports to the Board.

Quorum Report

Chris Haynes, Secretary, reported a quorum of 76 members in attendance (45 required) at 4:40 PM.

Motion: By-Law Change Removing Program Team

Remove by-law 4.11 Program Team.

Moved by Jan Skinner, second by Steve Dillon

Vote: approved unanimously

Recognition of Program Team Members

Reverend Macklin and Amy Taylor (Program Team Board liaison) thanked for their service the Program Team members: Patty Callison, Diane Gregory, Kevin Woodruff, Connie Loftman, Jackie Hall, John Woodcock. Through their efforts the Program Team played a valuable role in our governance transition.

Nominating Committee Slate of Candidates

Jan Skinner, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the following slate of candidates on behalf of the Committee:

- * Steve Dillon – President
- * Carol McCord – Vice-President
- * John Lawson – Treasurer
- * Abby Gitlitz – At-Large Board Member
- * Karen Jewell – Special Purposes Fund
- * Anne Haynes – Nominating Committee, July 2010-June 2013
- * Bob Flynn – Nominating Committee, July 2010-June 2012

Motion: Approve Slate of Candidates

Moved by Jan Skinner, second by Steve Dillon.

Vote: approved unanimously

Motion: Revise Bylaw 5.8

Jan Skinner, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the following Nominating Committee motion:

Modify Bylaw 5.8 to read as follows:

5.8 Leadership Cultivation Committee. The Church shall have a leadership cultivation committee, which shall recruit candidates for elected positions within the church organization and shall provide opportunities both within and outside the church for leadership training. All nominations shall be made in accordance with the Church Diversity Policy set forth in Paragraph 2.3 of these Bylaws. When a committee within the church cannot find its own chair, the Leadership Cultivation Committee may be requested to work with the committee. The Leadership Cultivation Committee shall hold meetings at regular intervals throughout the year. When appropriate, the committee shall identify and publicize posts for which vacancies are expected.

The Leadership Cultivation Committee's membership shall consist of at least one Board member, normally the Vice-President or the President, and three elected members, none of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Leadership Cultivation Committee shall select its own chair. The non-Board committee members shall be elected to overlapping three-year terms, one member chosen each year. Nominees for the Leadership Cultivation Committee shall be selected by the Leadership Cultivation Committee and elected at the Spring annual meeting. Elected committee members shall not serve two successive elected terms. Paid professional staff members shall not be eligible to serve on the leadership cultivation committee with the exception that a minister shall serve ex-officio, non-voting on the Leadership Cultivation Committee.

The Leadership Cultivation Committee shall provide potential nominees for elected positions with a job description identifying job responsibilities and term of office, confirm willingness to accept those responsibilities, and nominate a slate of candidates recommended to fill elected offices. That slate shall be circulated to the members of the Congregation along with notice of the Spring meeting. Nominations from the floor shall be permitted, with the consent of the nominee.

Vote: approved unanimously

Vote on 25% Plate Recipient

25% of our Sunday Plate Offering (excluding pledge payments) is dedicated to a local agency or project. A paper-ballot vote for the recipient of these funds in the coming fiscal year was initiated, with the following candidates:

- * Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana
- * Lotus Education & Arts Foundation (LEAF)
- * People and Animal Learning Services, Inc. (PALS)

Outstanding Service Awards

The annual Outstanding Series Awards were presented to Chris Clothier and Guy Loftman.

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin offered the following appreciation of Chris

Clothier's service.

Chris has served as served as Vice President, President, Past President of this congregation. She was a Chalice Circles Facilitator for several years, was on the Chalice Circle Executive Team as a member and then as Co-Chair. She attended the Small Group Ministry Institute at The Mountain in 2008. Chris has served on countless committees, including our Expanding the Circle Committee, which worked for almost two years to engineer our move from one Sunday service to two. She has served often as a greeter, has been a greeter trainer and helped create part of that training.

Chris is a person who empowers others without calling attention to her own efforts. She can always be counted on, no matter what the job, to do what needs to be done creatively, thoroughly and energetically. She is constantly trying to improve her own leadership skills and to help others develop their skills, and her joy in serving is positively contagious.

She has promoted Midwest Leadership School within our church by organizing a forum in 2003 to promote the school, talking about it at a Sunday service, promoting it at other appropriate opportunities and encouraging likely candidates to consider attending. During her long service on our Board of Directors Chris encouraged Board members to take on leadership opportunities and coached them in the process.

Chris took her passion for leadership outside of our church, as her peers on the staff of MWLS appointed her Dean in 2003, and then Chair in 2004, of the school. This required her to travel several times during the year to planning meetings and to work year round on organizational matters, on top of her already full plate in our church and a full-time job. She also has served the Heartland District as a delegate for several years and helped to host a MWLS alumni meeting at the District conference. Chris has also attended General Assembly as a delegate.

While Chris has taken a self-imposed, well deserved sabbatical from lay leadership recently, she has never flagged in her dedication to lay leadership development or her passion for service to this congregation. We owe a great deal to Chris, and are extremely fortunate to have her one of our long time dedicated members and leaders of our congregation. It is an honor to present Chris Clothier with this award this year, 2010.

Reverend Bill Breeden offered an appreciation of Guy Loftman's service as the church's legal counsel for thirty years.

Recognition of Retiring Board Members

Appreciation was offered for the service of retiring Board of Directors members Amy Taylor, Andrea Murray, and G.K. Rowe. Reverend Mary Ann Macklin honored the exceptionally long service of G.K. Rowe, most recently in the role of President.

2010-2011 Operating Budget

John Lawson, Treasurer, presented the attached proposed fiscal year 2010-2011 Operating Budget for Congregational Approval and highlighted the following:

Features of proposal:

1. Cost of living increase 2% for employees
2. Keep budget increase below projected income increase

Propose planned deficit at \$6000.

1. Status of fund drive: \$413,020; plan \$420,000
2. Current (May 2010) 2009-10 operating balance deficit of \$23320; pledge receipts are approximately \$16000 below where they should be.

Previous operating balance of \$13110 will cover some of 2009-10 deficit.

3. Prepaid 2010-11 pledges are better than previous two years (\$32464)
4. Plan to work with administration to bring 2010-11 operating budget deficit, currently at \$12587, down to \$6000. Adjustments needed will depend on additional pledges between now and end of fiscal year.

Motion: Approve 2010-2011 Operating Budget

1. Approve the presented operating budget with deficit at or below \$6000
2. Approve the presented strategy to bring budget deficit to that level without second congregational meeting

Moved by Kathy Sideli, second by Doris Wittenburg

Vote: approved unanimously

Announcement of the 25% Plate Recipient

People and Animal Learning Services, Inc. (PALS) received the most votes to receive 25% of the Sunday Plate offering in the coming fiscal year.

President's Remarks

Retiring Board of Directors President G.K. Rowe offered remarks of appreciation looking back on his Board service.

Motion: Approval of Minutes

The Board is empowered to approve minutes of this meeting at a future Board meeting.

Moved by Chris Haynes, second by Ruellen Fessenbecker

Vote: approved by acclamation

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Steve Dillon, second by Chris Haynes

Vote: approved by acclamation

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Unapproved Minutes of the December 12, 2010 Congregational Meeting

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Call to order by Steve Dillon, President, at 4:10 PM

Chalice Lighting and Reading by Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Bill Breeden

Steve Dillon introduced Guy Loftman as Parliamentarian.

Board of Directors Governance Report

Steve Dillon, President, reported that the recent transition of the board to Policy Governance was going well.

Executive Minister's Report

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin reported that she was "amazed" with how well the Policy Governance model is working for us. Amy Taylor, a recent member of our Board, now serves as President of our Unitarian Universalist Association Heartland District, which is most appreciative of her service.

Treasurer

John Lawson, Treasurer, thanked the congregation for its financial support and reported that our operating budget is in the best shape it has been in for the last five years. He concluded that we were in an excellent position for the proposed capital campaign.

Leadership Cultivation Committee

Jan Skinner, chair of the Leadership Cultivation Committee, began by noting the recent change in the committee's name from Nominating Committee. The fall Leadership 101 training was highly successful. The Faith Formation 2020 Workshop opportunity was outlined and has the Committee's strong endorsement.

Motion: Approval of Minutes

The Board is empowered to approve minutes of this meeting at a future Board meeting.
Moved by Jan Skinner, second by Abby Gitlitz
Vote: approved unanimously

Motions: Proposed By-law Amendments

4.9 Budget change: "10% or \$1,000 to whichever is greater" to "\$3,000".

Moved by Jan Skinner and Connie Loftman

Vote: approved unanimously

B. 5.53 Vice-President: delete "The Vice-President will also serve as Chairperson of the Council."

Moved by Jack King, Ruellen Fessenbecker

Vote: approved unanimously

Faith Formation 2020 Workshop Proposal

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin reported on the opportunity for this church to host a Faith Formation 2020 Workshop, designed to specifically address social justice issues. This workshop makes use of research on congregational trends in the next 20 years. The workshop would be open to all church members without charge and for a small registration fee to congregants from area churches.

Clark Miller, chair of the Special Purposes Fund Committee, voiced the Committee's endorsement of the proposal to provide \$3,000 in support of this Workshop from the Lundin Special Purposes fund, which is intended to support social justice work.

Motion: Faith Formation 2020 Workshop funding

The Special Purposes Fund is directed to disburse the amount of \$3,000 from social justice funds for the Faith Formation 2020 Workshop scheduled in February, 2011.

Moved by Clark Miller, second by Connie Loftman

Vote: approved unanimously

Green Spaces Initiative: The Next Steps

Cynthia Port and Libby Devoe, co-chairs of the Green Spaces Initiative Taskforce, reported on recent developments and the next major step, which is a capital campaign to fund this initiative.

They provided the following cost breakdown of the all-inclusive plan:

- Exterior Site: \$340,000 (drainage, parking lots, sidewalks, traffic flow, landscaping, etc.)
- Courtyard: \$300,000 (re-grading, play equipment, pavilion, patio, landscaping, etc.)
- Building Upgrades: \$200,000 (windows, carpets, lighting, covered entry, etc.)
- Meeting Room: \$40,000 (Speakers, lighting, electrical, video)
- Maintenance Reserve Fund: \$60,000 (for ongoing maintenance needs)
- Future Growth Fund: \$40,000
- Social Justice 5%: \$50,000

The previous capital campaign compared with the current proposal as follows:

| Year | Membership | Operating Budget | Capital Campaign |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1997 | 300 | \$168,000 | \$725,000 |
| 2011 | 450 | \$492,000 | \$1,000,000 |

Reports were also made on how the 3% allocated for social justice initiatives in the last capital campaign was utilized, and the great value of "sweat equity" in realization of the last capital campaign's goals.

Motion: Green Spaces Initiative capital campaign

Start a capital campaign to fund our Green Spaces Initiative with 5% of the total raised dedicated to the Social Justice Fund.
 Moved by Libby Devoe, second by Abby Gitlitz
 Vote: approved unanimously

Motion: Thanks to Green Spaces Initiative Taskforce

The congregation thanks the Green Spaces Initiative Taskforce for their five years of hard work.
 Moved by Jan Skinner, second by David Keppel
 Vote: approved unanimously

Co-Ministers' Report and Closing Words

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin noted many congregants reported their fondest memories of church life were in contributing "sweat equity". Reverend Bill Breeden reported gratitude for serving a congregation with such enthusiasm, and they both offered closing words.

Quorum Report

Chis Haynes, Secretary, reported a quorum of 57 members in attendance (46 required).

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by David Cox, second by Jan Skinner
 Vote: approved by acclamation

The meeting adjourned at 5:15

Special Report
Social Justice Funds Committee
 Unitarian Universalist Church, Bloomington, IN

25% Fund Recipient for 2011-12 to be Chosen June 5

At our annual congregational meeting on June 5 at 4:00 p.m., the members attending will vote on which of the following agencies will be the next recipient of 25% of Sunday plate offerings: Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, Planned Parenthood of Indiana, or Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners.

Please make sure to attend the annual congregational meeting on June 5 to vote for the agency of your choice.

Monroe County CASA, Inc Nominated by Ken Pimple

Monroe County CASA, Inc., (<http://www.monroecountycasa.org/>) was established in 1983 and became an independent, non-profit program in 2009. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates, a national organization.

CASA serves children up to age 18 who have been adjudicated as a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) due to abuse or neglect by their parents or caregivers. CASA recruits, screens, trains, and supervises community volunteers who provide advocacy services to CHINS, thereby ensuring that they receive needed services and find a safe, permanent home.

We currently must train 40-50 new volunteers to keep up with our case load. Volunteers contribute 8,000-10,000 hours of service yearly, making CASA services extremely cost-effective.

CASA helps about 400 children per year, but generally has 20-40 children on a waiting list. Additional funds would help us reduce the waiting list by paying for advertising and additional training.

Other county programs have shown that advertising can significantly increase the number of people who learn about and volunteer for CASA.

We currently hold 3 classes per year; with \$900 we could offer a fourth.

Added visibility provided by advertising could raise community awareness to a tipping point that would ensure a steady stream of financial contributions and volunteers.

Planned Parenthood of Indiana

Nominated by Marjorie Crosby and David Keppel

On May 10, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels signed HEA 1210 into law. HEA 1210 is intended to cut off all public funding for Planned Parenthood of Indiana, depriving thousands of low-income women and men of the preventive, reproductive health care they rely on. Indiana is the first state in the nation to ban Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid family planning funding. That funding pays for services including birth control, cancer screenings, HIV testing, and more. In Monroe County in 2010, PPIN served 5,485 patients and provided 876 Pap tests, 1,056 Chlamydia tests, 1,053 Gonorrhea tests, 906 pregnancy tests, and 448 HIV tests at its Bloomington health center.

“By signing this bill, the governor has put the health care of thousands of Hoosiers who rely on federal funding at risk,” said PPIN President and CEO Betty Cockrum. “However, we’re not going to let that happen. We will see all patients who rely on federal funding ... and will cover those costs out of our Women’s Health Fund as long as we can.” Our Church has the opportunity to support this fund. Doing so would affirm the value that we place on reproductive health care for women and men.

VITAL – Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners

Nominated by John Lawson

VITAL volunteer tutors help community members improve their lives through literacy. VITAL serves adults who need to improve reading, writing, comprehension, basic math, and English language skills. VITAL serves approximately 70 individuals every week in one-to-one tutoring pairs or in ESL Conversation Practice classes. The literacy needs that are being addressed vary from the very lowest literacy levels to community college

level vocabulary, and everything in between. **What all learners share is the reality that literacy is necessary for a productive life and that literacy is an equalizer.**

VITAL participants have many barriers to overcome and come from all walks of life. We are committed to providing a welcoming environment and we understand the power of relationship. VITAL services may include job search tutoring, serving individuals with aphasia, computer coaching, being a reading partner for someone with developmental disabilities, or working with recently incarcerated individuals.

The program's success is dependent on its pool of dedicated volunteers, who are dependent on VITAL for up-to-date training, materials, and mentoring. Funds donated by UU Church would be used for those purposes, and include: consumable materials – supplies and workbooks that can be used and kept by participants, and training workshops on specific strategies provided by experts.

Nominating Committee Report – May 2011

Election to Be Held at Congregational Meeting, Sunday, June 5 at 4:00 p.m.

If elected, all terms begin July 1, 2011.

Chris Haynes joined the church in 1994 and began serving as an YRUU facilitator and Youth Advisory Committee chair. Since then I have served as ARE committee chair, as an RE and OWL program instructor, as webmaster, and as a chalice circle facilitator. I've led a number of ARE events and been a member of the long term planning committee, the chalice circle planning committee, the web committee, and the denominational affairs committee. Currently I serve as Board Secretary (second term) and on the sound committee. Board secretary, 2 year term, 2011-2013.

John Lawson and his wife Julie moved back to Bloomington after he retired from the Federal Government in 2002. We started attending the UU Church because first Julie and then both of us were looking for a place to sing. We very quickly found a spiritual home here and became members in 2005. John has served as Board Treasurer since 2008. 2 year term, 2011-2013.

John Summerlot chose the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington as the first church I have ever been a member of for several reasons. Raised an agnostic within a Christian culture, traveling the world, earning degrees in religion, philosophy, and history, and marriage to someone raised Irish Catholic, I found the church a welcoming place that allowed for exploration and self-definition without discounting our past. Secondly, I enjoy the diverse religious education program available for my family which includes three young children. Lastly, I enjoyed the free exchange of ideas among members and ministers along with the commitment of the church to serving the greater good. As I have learned more about UU, I have realized that it fits me like no other faith tradition I have encountered and I really can't see myself anywhere else. I am pleased to be nominated for the Board of Directors and I see it as an opportunity to not only further explore both UU and the world of (semi)organized religion but also a chance to give back to a community that has given much to myself and my family. At-Large Member of the Board, 2 year term, 2011-2013.

Kevin Rottet has been involved in many church activities since 2004: four years with the church auction committee; some work with other committees (IOTF, Rainbow Rights); twice a member of chalice circles; has attended numerous Adult RE classes; regular participant in Fellowship dinners; Booktable staffer; recently helped launch the Book Discussion Group. A couple summers ago he served as a delegate to GA in Salt Lake City. At-Large Member of the Board, 2 year term, 2011- 2013.

Lloyd Orr joined in the early sixties and has served on the Board several times - 70's through 2005—along with three stints as treasurer. He served on the building and RE committees in the 60's and 70's. Lloyd managed the finances for the late nineties building project and served on SPF in the nineties. He set up the

fund structure and the procedure for drawing income from the endowment. Currently on the auction, finance, and planned giving committees. Special Purposes Fund, 3 yr term, 2011-2014.

Kelly Rockhill joined UU in 2005. She was intrigued by the idea of a "liberal religious community," a foreign concept to her at the time! After a couple years of coaxing, her husband Cassidy attended and soon became a gung-ho member. Being involved is integral to their membership-from choir, to ushering, to teaching RE to Leap of Faith. There is no place like this spiritual home for Kelly, Cassidy, and their two daughters, Eva (5) and Shilo (9 months). Leadership Cultivation Committee. 3 year term, 2011-2014.

Tom Nelson-Laird, a professor of higher education at IU, and his wife, Connie, moved to Bloomington in 2003 and subsequently joined the church. Tom participated with groups examining the future of the church, including the Shaping Our Future Together and Leap of Faith committees, and actively supports Connie in her work with the Habitat for Humanity Task Force. Leadership Cultivation Committee, 3 year term, 2011-2014.

Treasurer's Report

A Bit of History

Budgeted pledge levels over last five years:
(\$ in thousands)

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Pledge</u> | <u>Received</u> | <u>New</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2005-6 | \$325.0 | \$300.1 | \$3.8 |
| 2006-7 | \$356.6 | \$342.1 | \$4.2 |
| 2007-8 | \$388.8 | \$363.0 | \$2.5 |
| 2008-9 | \$415.5 | \$393.1 | \$1.8 |
| 2009-10 | \$409.9 | \$371.3 | \$0.3 |

Where we are through end of April:

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| 2010-11 | \$415.7 | \$353.5 | \$2.3 |
|---------|---------|---------|-------|

2009-10 was a tough year. We programmed pledges of \$420,000, a one percent increase. You can see that the pledge level actually decreased one percent from the previous year. In addition, pledge payments were four percent below the previous year.

Pledges for 2010-11 were almost exactly the same level as 2008-9. We are back on track. The proof – our current pledge level for 2011-12 is at or near a five percent increase over 2010-11.

UU Church of Bloomington

Operating Budget Revenue and Expenses - Proposed 2011-12

| Category Revenue | 2010-11 | to date | 2011-12 | Notes |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Pledges and Grants | \$415,700 | \$353,555 | \$436,485 | 5% increase - actual through May 27 \$434249 |
| 2009 Pledges new | 3500 | 2250 | 3000 | |
| Bazaar | 10500 | 8951 | 10000 | |
| Chalice Lighter Grant dist | 4402 | 4402 | 0 | no grant money after 2010-11 |
| Facilities use | 14500 | 9219 | 12000 | by-pass work; church demands |
| Interest income | 2600 | 124 | 600 | interest rates very low |
| Investment income | 1600 | 1539 | 1600 | |
| Kroger-Marsh | 6000 | 4500 | 8000 | increase earmarked for facilities |
| Sunday plate | 24000 | 22367 | 26000 | based on current year income |
| Talent Auction | 12000 | 13239 | 13000 | based on current year income |
| Misc | 1000 | 1600 | 2000 | based on current year income |
| Totals | \$495,802 | \$421,746 | \$512,685 | 3.4% increase in projected revenue |

| Expenses | 2010-11 | to date | 2011-12 | Notes |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Campus-young adult | \$3,828 | \$1,235 | \$4,552 | increase in hours to 300 hours per year |
| Childcare | 9611 | 8036 | 9804 | |
| Committees | 14726 | 5507 | 14382 | |
| Denomination & MCUM | 38617 | 33962 | 41138 | increase in congregational membership dues - increase UUA dues rate |
| Ministry | 130660 | 108235 | 133180 | |
| Music | 33713 | 26598 | 34314 | |
| Office | 90609 | 72225 | 92620 | added \$400 for accounting; \$50 for candles |
| Plant | 110374 | 79081 | 111298 | supplies, insurance increased |
| YRE | 68823 | 56739 | 71176 | |
| Totals | \$500,961 | \$391,618 | \$512,464 | 2.2% increase in projected expenses |

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Net operating | (\$5,159) | \$30,128 | \$221 |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|

UU Church of Bloomington

Where does the money go by category

Compensation:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Ministers | \$128,480 |
| Religious Education | \$63,566 |
| Music | \$30,614 |
| Administration/Child Care | \$71,052 |
| Custodial | \$17,055 |

2% cost of living increase

Total: \$310,767

Facility:

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Mortgage | \$37,000 |
| Utilities | \$15,500 |
| Maintenance | \$13,000 |

reduce interest rate to 5%

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Reserves | \$14,965 |
| Other | \$13,778 |

includes additional \$2000 from grocery cards

includes \$2200 for snow removal

Total: \$94,243

Denominational Affairs:

\$41,138

membership growth, increased rates

Office Supplies:

\$21,568

Committees:

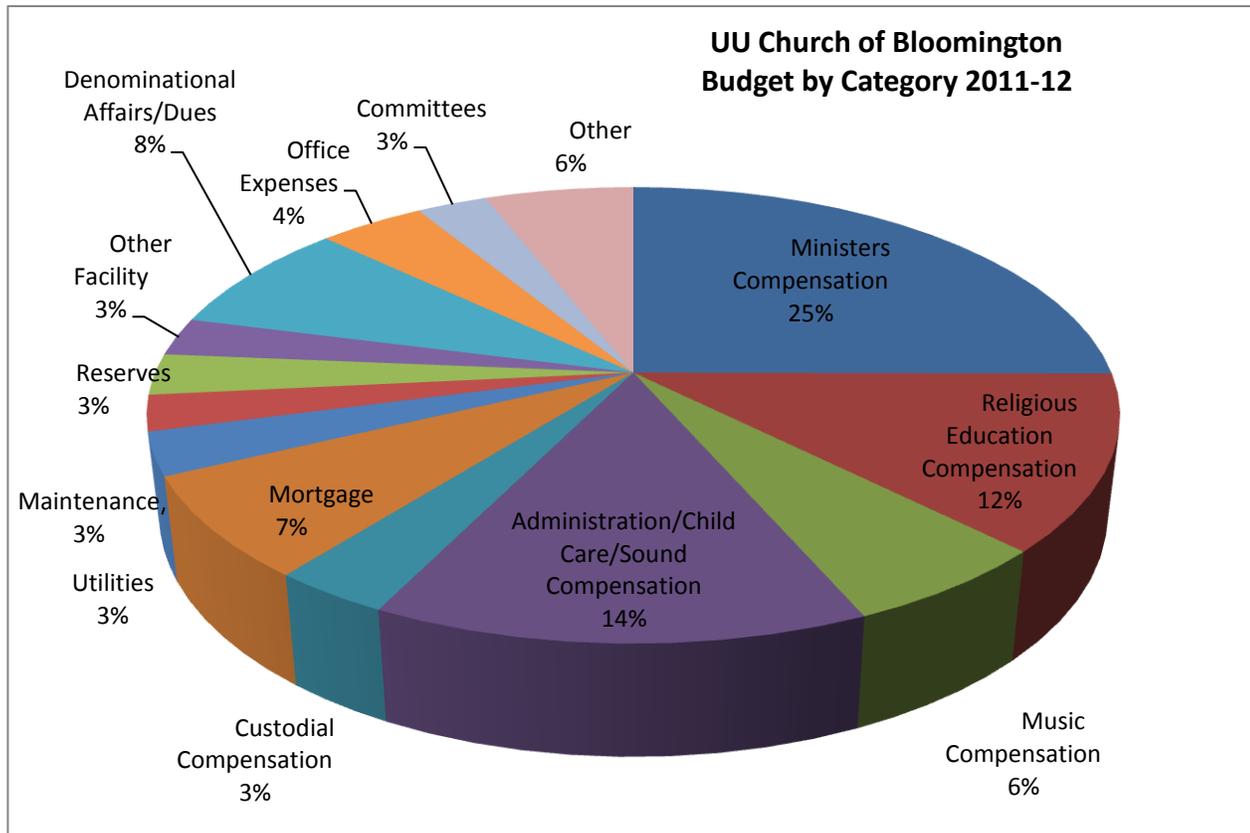
\$14,382

Other:

\$30,366

Total: \$107,454

Grand Total: \$512,464



Co-Ministers Report
Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Bill Breeden
Unitarian Universalist Church
July 2010 to June 2011

If the Roman goddess Fortuna has any say in this universe, then she has certainly blessed our congregational year, 2010-2011. Our year began with the great fortune of being selected by the Unitarian Universalist Association to be one of eight congregations to participate in a new pilot program called Leap of Faith in which aspiring congregations are matched with "mentoring congregations" that have experience with particular issues and challenges that the aspiring congregations face. The idea is to create congregation-to-congregation learning communities to share the wisdom inherent in UUA congregations, including mutual mentoring and experiential learning. Our congregation sent a Leap of Faith Team to New Orleans for the first 'leap' experience and we sent of van full of Leap of Faithers to Rochester, New York. Our learning exchange has already enriched our congregational life here in Bloomington.

Fortuna smiled upon us again. We were informed in late autumn that our congregation won a random drawing (out of 500 congregations) to have the President of our Association, Reverend Peter Morales, visit us for Association Sunday. We were lucky to be able to schedule his visit to coincide with our Green Spaces Capital Campaign and Stewardship Drive kick-off. It was a wonderful Sunday in late March. The following Sunday was our District Meeting at which Reverend Macklin preached the sermon for the Opening Ceremonies and UUA Moderator Gini Courter was the keynote speaker. Gini, the most prominent lay leader in our denomination, visited our congregation that Sunday for our worship service.

Through the efforts of many, we landed a grant from the Center for Congregations to host a Faith Formation 2020 workshop here on a weekend in February. Reverend Phil Lund and Reverend Sue Sinnamon taught us about trends and societal forces which will influence our congregations over the next ten years. The workshop also included time for visioning our own dreams.

It was with sadness that we said good-bye to our longtime pianist Sally Todd in July, and it has been wonderful to have Nick Dold tickling the ivories since her departure. We remain very grateful for our music program and staff here at the UUCB. We also have deep gratitude for our religious education staff who create an ongoing, dynamic multi-generational ministry for our congregation, administrative staff who keep the operational gears well oiled through their efforts and attitudes, for our Membership Coordinator who has offered another layer of efficiency, welcoming and good humor to our ministry. We also have an awesome custodian. Lastly, as the year nears its end, we bid farewell to our Campus Ministry Coordinator Susan Blake who has served our student and young adult community with energetic commitment and integrity. We thank all of our staff for the team effort they offer.

As co-ministers we have made efforts to stay engaged with our UU colleagues through monthly cluster meetings in Indianapolis and district gatherings. We stay in touch with our local interfaith colleagues through monthly meetings with Monroe County Religious Leaders.

We are grateful for our new board which has stepped into their new role as a visioning and policy board with tenacity and we thank those who have helped with the transition of the Nominating Committee to its new incarnation, the Leadership Cultivation Committee. Of course, our Social Justice Task Forces continue to amaze us with their justice-centered dedication as do our many committees and working groups for their care and follow-through. Thanks to all members and friends for your leadership, care, sharing, inspiration and cheerfulness which allows this congregation to boldly go forward into our vision, "Seeking the Spirit. Building Community. Changing the World".

HOWEVER, as one renaissance writer wrote of Fortuna, *Whatever Fortune has raised on high, she lifts but to bring low. Modest estate has longer life; then happy he whoe'er, content with the common lot, with safe breeze hugs the shore, and, fearing to trust his skiff to the wider sea, with unambitious oar keeps close to land.*" Mind you, we will always take our good ship Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington into the wider seas, ambitious to the end, but *Fortuna* has dropped us a little low at times, literally. We recently found out that our sewer system needs major repair; initial investigations included a church colonoscopy. We are dealing with ongoing issues from the 46 by-pass construction and destruction. We have lost cherished church members and friends through relocation, dissatisfaction, lack-of-connection and death. Through our tears and broken hearts we remain dedicated to keeping our circle of care whole despite the many disappointments that come with being part of community.

Lastly, we just want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to our Green Spaces Campaign leadership and all of YOU, YOU, who have helped make many of the Green Spaces initiatives possible through your generosity of spirit and kind. As we look forward to 2011-2012 we will see the construction begin for our Green Spaces improvements, including drainage! (not to be confused with sewer which is a whole other challenge). We bid farewell to Minister of Education Reverend Emily Manvel Leite for the year; she and her family will be in London, England. Director of Religious Education, Cindy Port, and we, your co-ministers, will make sure her ministry is well tended in her absence. We look forward to a legislative training weekend in the fall, and our ongoing ministry with y'all!

Blessings and Love,
Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Bill Breeden

Church Administrator's Annual Report 2010-11

OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF. During the past year, we hired a new Office Assistant three times. Ruthann DuBois was our Office Assistant from July 2010 until April 2011, and left to take a full-time job. In April we re-hired former Office Assistant Ginger Ko, and also Erica Caldwell, who share the Office Assistant position. They are each in the office about 10 hours per week, and the arrangement is working very well. The inspiration for dividing this position came from our own Religious Education staffing and conversations with staff at the Unitarian Church of Rochester, New York, where we visited and learned in March 2011 as part of the Leap of Faith initiative.

FACILITIES USE. Facilities use by non-church groups continues strong, and the building is in heavy use for a variety of congregational events nearly every day of the week.

Leaders: Booking congregational events and meetings early is encouraged.

EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING. Equipment replacements during the year have included new computers for the Religious Education and Music Offices, new lightweight tables for Fellowship Hall, and a number of Air Conditioning units that have needed to be replaced, as all were at least 12 years old. Painting of exterior areas most in need of attention was completed last summer.

DATABASE USE FOR LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATION. The new online database which we purchased in 2008 continues to be an excellent tool. We encourage leaders of committees and task forces to use the database for communication and organization. Our church calendar, mailing list, Religious Education registration for children and youth and adults, pledge contributions, and deposit information are all now recorded in the online database. Our church calendar can easily be accessed from our website, www.uubloomington.org. Members and friends of the congregation may access their own information and contact info only for other members by obtaining a username and password at <https://www.churchdb.com/churchDB/Login.asp?iOrgzKey=49>

We must have your correct email address in our system for this to work.

COMING SOON: This summer we will add the capability of receiving payments for pledges via credit or debit card through our website and database. Keep an eye on The Prologue for updates.

NEW IN 2011-12. By July 1, 2011, we will change to a new bookkeeping system that fits our growing congregation. Church staff will participate in continuing education to support this change.

Many blessings,
Carol Marks, Church Administrator (since 1992)
5/24/11

Music Director's Annual Report 2010-2011

This year we welcomed pianist Nicholas Dold to the UU Church family. Jill Courtney continued her excellent work with our children's choir, which performed at several Sunday morning and Wednesday evening family services over the year.

Special events this year included:

- 1) the choir's performance of Randall Thompson's *Frostiana* with the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra in October,
- 2) Latin American and Spanish holiday music in December
- 3) hosting "A Jazz Service for Peace," on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, directed by Keith McCutchen,
- 4) performing for UUA president Peter Morales (the children's choir, adult choir, and a rousing performance of "God Bless the UUA" by Scott Hogsed and Ray Fellman)
- 5) Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, with large orchestra – mostly in-house – and soloists Amanda Biggs, Erica Whichello, Sam Cusack, and David McIntosh
- 6) Another kicking gospel service with band, organized by Rev. Breeden.
- 7) A children's talent show and cake party to raise funds for a new children's musical to be written by Stephen Hammor and composed by Lauren Bernofsky.

I am very grateful for the support and flexibility of the church during October and November, when I was busy performing a two-person show with Ray Fellman at Cardinal Stage Company. Connie Loftman, David McIntosh, Jeffrey Huntsman, and Colombian graduate student Juan Hernandez stepped in to cover rehearsals, and Charles Latshaw of the Bloomington Symphony conducted a Sunday morning service.

The choir gave me a wonderful gift this year: with money donated by the choir, my office was completely transformed. Steve Krahnke and Steve Pollitt built and installed beautiful shelves. Ruellen Fessenbecker's Chalice Circle helped move and label the music library into boxes, and Eve Loftman and Sophie Krahnke both spent afternoons with me organizing the gorgeous new library system. It is still a work in progress, but it is so nice to be able to see the whole music library at a glance! Thank you all!

I continue to be grateful for and inspired by the choir and all the music lovers in this congregation. I look forward to next year, when we will premiere a large new Requiem by Cary Boyce and our new children's musical.

Yours truly,
Susan Swaney, Music Director

Membership Coordinator's Annual Report 2010-2011

As Membership Coordinator I have continued to focus my attention on our newest members, interviewing them to determine their gifts and interests and make relevant connections. Sunday mornings, I helped welcome guests, and acted as an information source for anyone with questions. Other activities included:

- Offered weekly office hours Thursday mornings
- Facilitated Membership Book signings
- Attended Family Worship
- Assisted with Exploring UU class
- Joined Leap of Faith project
- Maintained Our Folks in Print, a display on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall showing our members and friends in the news.
- Attended Membership Committee meetings and new member events.
- Continued Coffee Houses

I appreciate the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people as I assist them to become an active part of our vibrant community.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Bennett

Religious Education Annual Report, June 2011

Curriculum

Summer 2010; Passport to the World

Preschool 9:15 and 11:15 We are Many, We are One

K-1st 11:15 Treasure Hunting

K-3rd 9:15 Creating Home

4th-6th 9:15 and 5th-6th 11:15 (Fall) Windows and Mirrors, (Spring) Love Connects Us

2-3rd 11:15 Justice Gems/Moral Tales

5th-6th (optional, spring) Our Owl Lives (OWL) Comprehensive Sexuality Education

7th-8th (optional) Our Owl Lives Comprehensive Sexuality Education

9-12th YRUU, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

January 2011 Intersession

"Stories of the Bible II" 5 week intersession, by Rev. Emily Manvel Leite. Children signed up for classes based on interest and could choose between cooking, crafts, drama and outdoors. Attendance and enthusiasm for this program was high.

Social Justice Projects

- Postcard writing to President Obama with the Just Peace Task Force on Iran Day
- Lemonade stands for Haiti summer fund raiser, >\$250
- Bagged 200 LBS pet food for Back to Basics program to help elderly and disabled people keep their pets

- Procession of Giving
 - Collection for UUSC \$1570
 - 125 gifts for local people in need \$1500 (estimated value of gifts)
- Mitten and hat tree for Middle Way House
- MCUM Holiday Collection \$1044
- Field Trip and food drive to MCUM Food Bank
- Preschool class made lasagnas for Shalom center
- Book drive for Friends of Prisoners Task Force
- Fleece blankets made and donated by K-3rd class to homeless shelter in winter
- 5th-6th Bake Sale to raise money for Alzheimer Research >\$250
- Greeting cards and pop-up cards made for Eldercare Task Force and Caring Committee.

Highlights

- We continue to hold monthly Dinner and Family Worship services on first Wednesdays, with services led by Rev. Emily Manvel Leite
- 7th-8th grade Our Whole Lives class was taught for 22 weeks for 2 hours by Guy and Connie Loftman and Sam and Eve Cusack on Sunday mornings in the Library, 17 students participated. Phil Cooper and Emily McCord taught the 5th-6th grade OWL in the spring.
- 7th and 8th grade YUUMS social group also had a lock-in in the fall and had a camp-out in a cabin before the All-Church Retreat in the spring.
- YRUU (High School youth group) went to an IU Opera, held a lock-in, and has been going to Sunday Service together once a month.
- Childcare is full of infants, toddlers and twos on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Port, Director of Religious Education

Adult Religious Education Annual Report 2010-2011

Committee Members: Carolyn Emmert (chair), Bob Taylor, Rob Hongen, Elizabeth Lion, Alison Chopra, and Lisa Meuser

Staff Liaison: Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

This year we offered 19 courses and enrolled 155 students.

Fall 2010

Attuning to the Sufi Path, Sharon Parsons (7)

Belief Buddies and Critical Communities, Noretta Koertge (5)

Death with Dignity, Clarke Miller (8)

Dying Consciously: The Greatest Journey, Jenae McElwain (13)

Rise Up and Call Her Name, Ruellen Fessenbecker and Beckie Wagner (5)

Unitarian Universalist Yoga, Shelley Taylor (19)

What is UU Culture: Rev. Bill Breeden and Raymond Rust (14)

7 classes, 71 enrolled

Winter 2011

Exploring Mysticism through Poetic Prose, Christopher Haynes (5)

Mindfulness Meditation Group, Cetti Cherniak (9)
Seven Spiritual Laws of Yoga, Martha Sattinger (10)
Spiritual Practices for All Ages, Rev. Emily Manvel Leite (8)
Writing Your Spiritual Biography, Janet Greenblatt (4)

5 classes, 36 enrolled

Spring 2011

Attuning to the Sufi Path, Sharon Parsons (4)
Celebrate Your Mother, Barb Backler (6)
Cooking with Less Meat, Andrew and Charlotte Appel (8)
Live to 100 and Enjoy It, Al Strickholm (12)
Moving the Body, Centering the Spirit, Robin Pyle (10)
Spiritual Practices for All Ages, Rev. Emily Manvel Leite (4)
The Authentic Letters of Paul, Bob DeVoe (4)

7 classes, 48 enrolled

Booktable Committee Annual Report 2010-11

There are 12 active members of the Booktable Committee as of May 2011, plus a chair. Between services, a member serves at the table offering new books and CDs for sale, used items for a donation. The main mission, however, is to greet people, second: to sell books. From local bookstore Howards, the Booktable orders books & CDs requested for Adult Religious Education courses, the Book Discussion group, and per individual suggestions. Profits go to the Fuchs Library. Lately, a collection of books for children grows apace at the Booktable.

Respectfully submitted,
Glee Noble, for the Booktable

Coffeehouse Committee Annual Report 2010-11

The Chalice Coffeehouse enjoyed another successful season this year. The five scheduled performances were well attended, with about 50 people (adults and children) at each one. The quality of the entertainment was excellent and varied, from instrumental and vocal music to poetry, haiku and essays. Appreciative audiences again donated enough for us to be self-funded.

The goal of the Coffeehouse is to provide an opportunity for members and friends of all ages to hear good music and poetry in a fun, relaxing environment. In doing this, we also provide a venue for congregation members and friends to showcase their talents to an attentive, appreciative audience.

We continue to be pleased with the level of interest in the Coffeehouse, both from those wanting to attend and those wanting to perform. Feedback has been uniformly positive, from both performers and audience members.

This year, in addition to our standard in-church coffeehouses, we took the show on the road and held a Coffeehouse in Martinsville to close out the season. About 40 people attended: some intrepid Coffeehouse

regulars who traveled north, some Martinsville area UUs and friends anxious for some Friday-night fun, and, hopefully, at least a couple of surprised local folks who just happened in off the street.

Five Coffeehouses have been scheduled for next year (plus a probable one or two in Martinsville) and we're looking forward to another successful season.

Respectfully submitted,
David Sharp, for the Coffeehouse Committee
The Coffeehouse Committee (Judy Bennett, Vickie Provine and David Sharp)

Fellowship/Potluck Dinners Annual Report 2010-11

Fellowship Potluck Dinners had 54 participants this year, sharing food and conversation at 31 dinners in 5 months. Three new participants joined in. These numbers are down a third from last year. I plan to have a summer picnic as a means to introduce the program to newcomers and those who may not have participated in recent years. I also tried a family-oriented version of the potlucks. Only a small number participated. I don't know if this was due to dates or insufficient publicity. I'm ambivalent about trying it again next year. Perhaps a parent within the religious education program would be better suited to organizing these.

Respectfully submitted,
Dixie Welch, Dinner Coordinator

Goods and Services Auction Annual Report 2010

The Auction on March 6, 2011 successfully raised \$13,247. With a little tweaking of goods and services offered and much participation from the committee and the congregation, the event was a success. The dinner afterwards was excellent and those who attended came away with wonderful services, food, dinners and art.

Thanks to all who worked to make this the most successful auction yet.

Committee: Lois and Rick Holl, Arzetta Hults Losensky, Lucy Papier, Kevin Rottet, Dave Crane, Louray Cain and Jan Skinner, Chair.

Greeter/Welcomer Committee Annual Report 2010-11

Members: Karen Cassidy, Allison Chopra, Libby DeVoe (chair), Ann Watzel, Anna Wiley.

Accomplishments:

Recruited and scheduled 40 or 50 greeters and welcomers every month.
Conducted four training sessions for new greeter/welcomers.
Now have 110 trained greeters and welcomers

Concerns: We need a process for recruiting greeters that is more systematic than the ad hoc personal contacts now in use. It would be valuable to identify a cadre of "super welcomers" who would receive in-depth training and regularly staff the Welcome Table.

Grounds Committee Annual Report 2010-2011

The Grounds Committee planned and carried out Fall and Spring Grounds Clean-up days. Fall clean-up was well attended. About 12 people came on a sunny Saturday to rake, trim, weed, mulch, sweep, and more. Spring clean-up was also good; although there is still some ongoing mulching and weeding to do. Even as we look forward to big changes in the grounds, the committee is dedicated to keeping the lawns and beds in good shape during the transition.

We requested and received an expense adjustment, namely that snow removal not be part of the Grounds budget. We now are able to fund mower operation and maintenance, and purchase mulch and the occasional gardening supply without worrying that a bad winter will empty our account.
Julie and John Lawson

Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar Annual Report 2010

The 52nd (!) UU Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar started out with a super successful Friday, breaking previous Friday sales records. The bad weather on Saturday, however, resulted in an across the board drop in sales of almost 60%. Still, we were able to net \$12,196.32, of which \$8,891.29 was paid into the church's operating budget and \$2,222.82 to the Women's Alliance.

Over 100 people volunteered to work one or more Bazaar shifts, and even more contributed cookies, jellies, persimmon pulp, books, white elephants, pies, soups, and other goodies and treasures. Our co-volunteers were our elders and our children, old and new friends. Our vendors once again expressed a genuine fondness for the event and for how they are received by the UU family. We like to think that the Bazaar is a very large, involving, engaging, friend-engendering, give-and-get back, fun event, and we hope to see all of you and more there in 2011!

Julie Lawson and Joanne Henriot

Library Committee Annual Report 2010-2011

The library committee has met four times during the year. We have been working on an inventory of all the books in the library. This will take some time. We have also been involved with solving a few problems: i.e. what do about getting books returned in a timely fashion and making a procedure for selecting donated books that would eliminate the problem of donors leaving boxes of books without the attention of a committee member. Committee members are Ann McEndarfer, Roberta Watson, Patsy Flint and a new member Joyce Poor. Marjorie Crosby has served as committee chair.

Membership Committee Annual Report 2010-2011

Members: Erin Wager Miller (chair), Jackie Hall, Denise Ogren, Vickie Provine, Arzetta Hults Losensky, and Judy Bennett, ex officio

- Conducted six Membership Book signings, welcoming 45 new members between May 2010 and April 2011
- Published new member biographies in The Prologue, displayed photos and biographies on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall and archived them in an album in the Library.
- Gave the UU Pocket Guide and welcome packet to each new member household.
- Arranged recognition of new members in 2 Sunday services.
- Conducted seven Exploring UU classes for 71 newcomers.
- Hosted Fall potluck for the congregation to meet new members.
- Contacted guests every week to welcome them and answer questions about the church.
- Contacted those who had visited three months earlier to see if they had found a home with us.
- Hosted annual New Member Picnic at Bryan Park in May. This family-friendly event gives new members an opportunity to interact with the Board, Staff and Ministers.
- Inserted a weekly visitor form in the Order of Service to track guests who have not filled out the yellow guest card.
- Introduced new Welcome Folders for guests
- Developed **First Steps**, a 40-minute preview drop-in class on Unitarian Universalism. The first **First Steps** class will begin in July 2011 on the 4th Sunday, after services.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Wager Miller, Membership Chair
Judy Bennett, Membership Coordinator

Ramadan Iftaar Annual Report 2010

More than 20 volunteers came together on August 20, 2010, to facilitate our annual Ramadan Iftaar family dinner with the Islamic Center community here at our facility. About 250 people attended, at a time when concerns about justice and safety for Muslims and Jews had just increased sharply, because of threatening local incidents and bloody international interventions.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Hollinden

Social Justice

Annual Report 2010-2011

Social Justice at UU Church Bloomington and its activities are an important part of how we live our faith. We are grateful to all the people involved in social justice work and want to recognize them, their commitment of time and energy and whatever it takes to get the job done. There were outstanding SJ projects and people dedicated to Changing the World. 25% of our non-pledge Sunday Plate donations are given to a local agency. This year the recipient was PALS (People and Learning Services) which has already received \$5607 and will probably end up with about \$8000; last year's recipient, Crestmont Boys and Girls Club, received \$8162. Many task forces, groups, as well as our Religious Education raised money and collected materials in support of social justice work. We know that much more was given and not recorded.

The Elder Task Force was awarded a grant of \$250 to travel to and explore the Hope Meadows community in Rantoul, IL. Our Leadership Cultivation Committee received \$3000 for SJ Funds and a matching Center for Congregations grant for \$2500 to hold the Faith Formation 2020 workshop weekend which centered on how to best do social justice work in the next 10 years. Our congregation also donates \$1 per member to the UU Service Committee and makes annual contributions from our operating budget to the Social Justice Funds A and B. Common Ground is published monthly and is edited by Aleisha Kropf. Our SJ Bulletin Board and table are coordinated by Glenda Breeden, and are always filled with Social Justice news and activities. Each month a different task force or group is highlighted both there and in a Social Justice moment one Sunday a month. We are grateful to Diane Gregory, Sandi Clothier, and John Woodcock, who served on the SJ Steering Committee during the past year.

Social Justice work is highly integrated in our Chalice Circles and Religious Education programs and each was highlighted for a month on the SJ bulletin board and SJ Moments. A major component of Chalice Circles is the two service projects each group does, one for the church and one for the larger community.

This past year the Elder Focus and Rainbow Rights task forces became very active. David Parkhurst has indicated that the Katrina Task Force will not continue – we're grateful to David for his leadership and persistence and for the trips to help re-build in New Orleans.

The Green Spaces capital campaign has dedicated 5% to social justice. We will be making decisions in the next few months about how to allocate this money.



1. Children's Task Force (CTF)

The Children's Task Force seeks to provide assistance to local agencies serving the needs of children and to support children experiencing poverty and other stressors. Our group stays in touch via email newsletter and the occasional meeting.

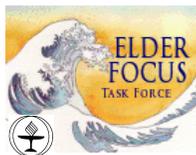
In the past year we have held regular monthly bake sales on the first Sunday of the month, and used the proceeds to help a number of organizations benefiting children: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, during their Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser, \$150; Save the Children's emergency fund for children caught in disasters such as the Japan earthquake, \$100; the Harmony School scholarship fund, to help at-risk youth attend Harmony School, approximately \$120.

The CTF also took an active role in providing information to our church community regarding the school funding referendum on the November 2010 ballot. We also sponsored a meeting for Stepping Stones youth that was held at our church.

The CTF is also collecting Box Tops for Education. Box Tops are small coupons found on many products which, when cut out and taken to any participating school, are worth ten cents apiece. We have a collection box on the SJ table, and have been receiving a steady stream of Box Tops that we deliver to Templeton Elementary School. Thank you to all who have been cutting out their Box Tops to bring to our collection box, or taking them to your local school!

CTF is always seeking new volunteers, as well as new projects to support. If you would like to get involved, contact information is available at the SJ table.

Jennifer Livesay



2. Elder Focus Task Force – May 8th, 2011

What We Accomplished

Served our Elders

- Sponsored a Fall Gathering featuring Lesa Huber speaking about Ten Simple Things You Can Do to Live and Age Well – Homemade soups served
- Deborah Rush created a wonderful “Silver Tsunami” Logo for our task force
- Applied for and received a grant from the Social Justice Funds to pay for gas and lunch for a visit to Hope Meadows on April 1, 2011
- Connected with youth from the church – Emma diLamore, Claire Janda and Hannah Kasak-Gliboff – to provide support for their fundraiser to raise money for Alzheimer’s research and patients’ projects – they raised over \$600 and collected 40+ beanbags to give to Cathleen Weber at the Alzheimer’s Association at the hospital.
- Visited Hope Meadows and had a follow-up breakfast in which we shared the experience with community members
- Engaged in an inquiry with Rev. Mary Ann Macklin about a vision she has to get UU young adults to learn about caring for elders with dementia in nursing homes
- Participated in Getting Involved Fair – continue to add to our list of people who will visit our elders or occasionally help them out with chores
- Presented intergenerational dinner and service on April 6th – celebrating place and memory
- Provided a luncheon gathering (lunch sponsored by Bell Trace) on May 11th with a program on balance by Cassie Connelly from Bell Trace and singing by Amanda Biggs

Educated

- Wrote a report about the visit to Hope Meadows and distributed to stakeholders in the community (attached)
- Purchased several copies of Hope Meadows, so many could read. At least 6 people have read the book.
- Provided Social Justice Moment in February and created bulletin board on Elder Focus Task Force activities
- Continue to add books on aging to our library
- Sponsored End of Life Interactive Theater on April 12th
- Checking on Yellow Pages for seniors – want to distribute to our elders – being created by Active Aging Coalition
- Provided a luncheon gathering (lunch sponsored by Bell Trace) on May 11th with a program on balance by Cassie Connelly from Bell Trace and singing by Amanda Biggs
- Promoted the Bloomington Creative Aging Initiative to our elders

- Offered an ARE class – Honoring and Celebrating Mothers the Tuesday before and after Mothers’ Day – We’re working on offering Honoring and Celebrating Fathers in June
- Keeping track of the Senate Bill 23: Communities for a Lifetime
- Attended Circle of Care: Mobilizing support in your congregation in Mooresville, put on by Duke Institute on Care at the end of Life
- Created a chart – Congregational Self-Assessment: What are we already doing? Combined this with the Caring Committee chart. Reflected on our accomplishments and what we need to do in the future.
- Considered calendar of events for Creative Aging Festival – Invited folks to attend Memory Bridge Initiative – a service learning curriculum designed to teach students how to communicate meaningfully with individuals with Alzheimer’s disease – May 16th from 3-5 at Wegmiller Auditorium at Bloomington Hospital.

Advocated for elder issues

- Working to enroll community members in the Hope Meadows model and eventually create such a model in Monroe County
- Keeping track of the Senate Bill 23: Communities for a Lifetime
- Notified Area 10 Ombudsman and offered to sponsor training for ombudsmen for nursing homes when she sees this need.

Community Organizing

- Created a Nursing Home Directed Care Team for Arda Landergren – 15 people have been invited to meet on May 22nd to determine what’s missing in Arda’s life, declare what each person wants to contribute to the effort and coordinate activities through a calendar.
- In communication with Rachel Johnson who would like to offer Reiki to church members who would then donate to the church
- Helping Joseph Darriau organize support for Cherry Merritt-Darriau

Budget

May 7th, 2011 – Balance \$219.18 (still have a few incidental expenses like postage and picture development)
Requested for next year, 2011-2012 - \$500.00

Barb Backler

Hope Meadows Report – April 25, 2011

The Generations of Hope Development Corporation is an organization that created Hope Meadows 15 years ago and now works to extend the Hope Meadows model to address a range of social problems and to inspire new sites across the country. The neighborhood is the vehicle for action. Hence, the intergenerational community itself becomes the intervention – the key source of support and service. Creating an Intergenerational Community as the Intervention (ICI) is an interesting idea. The Elder Focus Task of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington believes Monroe County or the City of Bloomington could benefit from exploring an intergenerational model similar to Hope Meadows in Rantoul, Illinois. This model addresses the problem of foster families too often feeling isolated and not receiving the support they need. The Hope Meadows model offers ways to connect foster families to elders who have the wisdom, experience and time these young families need. Community members add so much to the efforts of the professionals who are available on site, right in the community. Members of our task force visited Hope Meadows on April 1st, 2011.

What did we learn during our visit to Hope Meadows?

There is an excellent description of Generations of Hope, the innovative nonprofit corporation that established Hope Meadows in a paper entitled, “Generations of Hope Communities.” There is a copy at:

www.generationsofhope.org/documents/GHC_White_Paper.pdf

We were struck by the two operational principles that drive Hope Meadows:

1. Residents are not problems-to-be-managed but ordinary people requiring the same embeddedness in family and community that we would want for ourselves.
2. Given the opportunity, ordinary people will care for one another in ways, and to a degree, that go beyond the scope of traditional interventions.

As we sat and ate lunch with the residents we saw evidence of these principles. Over the years that Hope Meadows has been in existence elders have realized that this is a wonderful place to live. Professionals and talented individuals found that even though they were retired they still wanted to contribute to society. Former teachers who live in Hope Meadows derive great joy from tutoring children in the after school program. I sat across from a man who receives monthly visits from his own children, but at the same time he acts as a grandfather to little ones who live in Hope Meadows. He sat next to a 3 year old who didn't leave his side for the entire lunch period. They were clearly close friends. We became acquainted with a mother who was providing foster care to two children who came to live with her and her other two children. This mother had been trying to raise her two children on her own and was really struggling. As a member of Hope Meadows she found lots of support for all four children.

There was some concern expressed by one of the folks who travelled to Hope Meadows that the management seemed top down. The new director agreed that that had been the case and she was making changes. She is interested in empowering the members of the community, giving them a voice in the governance and valuing all of their healthy interactions with the families as valid volunteer hours. Elders are required to volunteer 6 hours a week, and they do a variety of things from tutoring to babysitting to acting as crossing guards in exchange for housing that is typically half the cost of other housing in the area.

Another concern that was expressed was that the residents of the community might feel isolated from the larger Rantoul town. This certainly wasn't the case. The houses are right next to houses that are not part of Hope Meadows. Members of Hope Meadows serve on the Rantoul Library board and are involved in other organizations in the community.

Young families are given a six-bedroom house and a stipend, so that one parent can stay at home with the children. The families pay the utility bills.

We had lots of questions about financing, and we still need some clarification. Originally Hope Meadows was given a million dollar grant from the state of Illinois. Recently they have received grants from the Department of Children Services. They also do fund-raising. And of course they receive income from the elders in the form of rent.

"The Federal Foster Care Program helps to provide safe and stable out-of-home care for children until the children are safely returned home, placed permanently with adoptive families or placed in other planned arrangements for permanency. The program is authorized by title **IV-E** of the Social Security Act, as amended, and implemented under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 45 CFR parts 1355, 1356, and 1357. It is an annually appropriated program with specific eligibility requirements and fixed allowable uses of funds. Funding is awarded by formula as an open-ended entitlement grant and is contingent upon an approved title IV-E plan to administer or supervise the administration of the program. The title IV-E Agency must submit yearly estimates of program expenditures as well as quarterly reports of estimated and actual program expenditures in support of the awarded funds. Funds are available for monthly maintenance payments for the daily care and supervision of eligible children; administrative costs to manage the program; training of staff and foster care providers; recruitment of foster parents and costs related to the design, implementation and operation of a state-wide data collection system.

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/programs_fund/state_tribal/fostercare.htm

The Generations of Hope Development Corporation, which is working to extend the Hope Meadows model, is largely funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

With whom are we in contact?

The Elder Focus Task Force sponsored a breakfast the Friday after we visited Hope Meadows on April 8th. We shared our experience with others in Monroe County. Present were Kerry Conway, the director of Area 10 Agency on Aging; Doris Parlette, former Department of Child Services Regional Manager; Rosemary Doherty, caseworker at Area 10 Agency on Aging; Diane Gregory; Patsy Flint; Deborah Phelps; Iris Kiesling, County Commissioner and Reverend Emily Manvel Leite. Steven Vaughn, director of the Department of Child Services in Monroe County; Judge Steve Galvin; Phil Stafford and Gina Alexander, Vice President of Programs and Administration at the Villages, have all expressed an interest in the model and have asked for more information.

How would this model work in Monroe County?

Kerry Conway spoke at our breakfast meeting about the possibility of making some of the senior housing that is available in Monroe County open to mixed generations. (Housing that was designated as strictly for elders is now open for negotiation after the 7- year requirement as strictly senior housing.) She also said that when given this option many elders are fearful of having active young people around them in case they might get knocked over. However, when seniors have had the opportunity to interact with young people such as Girl Scout troops the elders have really enjoyed the experience. Perhaps elders need to have the opportunity to see what intergenerational activities and living together could provide. If this were offered over a longer period of time everyone might have a chance to form relationships and understand how much fun and how rewarding this could be.

Kerry Conway introduced the idea of providing some of this housing to adoptive families. She also said that perhaps a mix of special needs children and children who don't face so many challenges might be less "convulsive."

There is a need for more resources for foster children and youth at risk. This is a unique model and one that might serve our community well.

Where do we go from here?

What would a community such as Hope Meadows look like in Monroe County?

Whenever the city or county is looking at programs for elders it seems like a good idea to consider how other generations could be incorporated into the plans. And when the city or county is looking at programs for foster children or youth at risk it seems like a good idea to consider how other generations, specifically elders, could offer support.

Senior housing could be part of the 12 acres of land near City Hall that Bloomington is in the process of purchasing from Indiana University. Would there be any community center in which intergenerational activities could take place? Would this be affordable for elders?

Bloomington has provided programming for seniors at Twin Lakes Recreation Center. Are the activities that provide recreation, leisure and wellness offered exclusively to seniors? Would there be opportunities to integrate the elders into activities that involve other age groups? Are there planned activities that bring different generations together?

There is talk about creating a gardening program for seniors. Couldn't this be an intergenerational effort with elders who have had much gardening experience serving as leaders?

Will there be a senior activity center downtown? Will younger generations be welcomed?

Wouldn't I.U. students benefit from interactions with elders in the community who could serve as mentors?

Next Steps:

- Distribute report to community members
- Contact other stakeholders in the community such as Middle Way House, Stepping Stones, Probation Department.
- Talk to Kerry Conway about possible programs she's considering as part of Area 10 Agency on Aging
- Research what is already being done in the community to provide our elders with the chance to stay in place and the ability to make a contribution and feel needed
- Visit Hope Meadows again and get access to their Wiki site
- Explore cooperative housing in Ann Arbor that involves elders along with other generations
- Visit the neighborhood naturally occurring retirement community in Linton, Indiana - 9 square blocks - to see if they have ideas that would inform our thinking
- Follow the development of Bill 23: Communities for a Lifetime which is being considered in the Indiana legislature

Barb Backler



3. Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change (GSTF)

The Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change (GSTF) promotes mindful, Earth centered living, working to educate and motivate individuals and institutions to take positive steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the understanding that it is our moral imperative to care for the Earth. To this end the GSTF has been active at various levels in the congregation and the wider community.

Activities in the recent fiscal year included:

Holding the weekly fair trade coffee and chocolate and compact fluorescent light bulb sales which provides an opportunity for all members and friends of the church to support the work of the GSTF and keep informed of its activities.

Implementing the Task of the Month program with over 130 UU households participating and offering promotional giveaways each month.

Holding a fall and spring clothing swap held in Fellowship Hall with both being well attended.

Co-hosting the Earth Fair with the Earth Kin between the Earth Day services, including the purchase and distribution of 240 tree and shrub seedlings.

Sponsoring the UU Retreat with over 60 registered participants.

Hosting a benefit performance with Philip Gulley and Carrie Newcomer with 250 attending. Raising over \$4,000.

Providing financial and promotional support to the Coal Free IU, Green Spaces Initiative (Market Gift Certificates), insulation project at UU, and UU Ministry for the Earth. In total the GSTF donated \$1,300.

Being an active member of Earth Care, Bloomington's Interfaith Group for the Environment, and actively

participating in the March launch of Hoosier – Interfaith Power and Light. Additionally GSTF members were active in the MLK Day events hosted by Earth Care.

Marcia Veldman



4. Habitat for Humanity Task Force

Task Force members: Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson-Laird, co-chairs, and Nedra Carlson, Peter Garrettson, Lynne Gilliatt, Joan Caulton and Bev Freese.

Meetings: Last Sunday of the month, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Goals/objectives: Address the lack of decent, affordable housing in Monroe County by supporting efforts of Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County; educate the congregation about housing needs, goals and accomplishments of Habitat; raise money for Habitat builds; support Habitat's ReStore with volunteers and funds; support Habitat by providing volunteers and food for builds.

Activities during 2010-2011

Service/fund-raising:

- Task force members earned about \$1,200 by parking cars at the UU lot during six IU football games (worked with International Outreach Task Force members to share income).
- Provided several builders for two Habitat builds.
- During church Holiday Bazaar, we sold holiday cards created by a Habitat homeowner to raise awareness about Habitat and earn money (about \$200).
- Sponsored a church breakfast on Feb. 13, with the help of a Chalice Circle, to support goal of sponsoring a day of a build, earning about \$800.
- Raised a total of \$3,200 toward sponsoring one day of a Habitat build, which costs \$6,250. We have plans to provide all the builders for the day we sponsor and the food.
- Task force recruited UUs to fill a table for Habitat's More Than Houses breakfast in November 2010, its biggest fund-raiser of the year.
- As another fund-raiser, task force members are building children's picnic tables to order for \$100 each.

Education:

- Task force co-chairs Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson Laird provided a "social justice" moment in March 2010, focusing on the 10th annual Habitat Women Build and how UUs can support Habitat in general.
- Regularly contribute articles to the Common Ground and Prologue to keep UUs abreast of volunteer opportunities involving Habitat and accomplishments of the task force.
- The task force set up a movable bulletin board, near the social justice table, for all task forces to use to post notices of events and requests for volunteer help. We also updated our Habitat bookmark and task force page on the UU website.
- Participated in the two Getting Involved Fairs at both services and recruited several people who were interested in building and helping the task force.
- Involved RE children in making fruit salads for our breakfast, after which teachers educated children about the good work of Habitat.

Witness:

- The task force decorated the social justice bulletin board in March with photos of previous Women Builds and statements from builders about the impact and importance of the build.

- The task force created a fund-raising “thermometer” that is displayed in the church hallway and sometimes in Fellowship Hall to visibly show our progress toward raising \$6,250 to sponsor one day of a Habitat build in the future.
- Volunteer builders worked side by side next to the homeowners, as well as other community members, and saw Habitat in action and the benefits to deserving area people.

Community organizing:

- Co-chair Barb Berggoetz served as a team leader for the Habitat Women Build, recruiting 25 women to build on May 19 during the one-week build. The task force annually sponsors a team for the Women Build. This year, a total of 33 team members, including women recruited by another co-leader, raised \$10,385.
- Task force co-chairs met with a representative of Habitat to renew our understanding of the organization’s greatest needs and learned that house financial sponsors and food for builders were top needs, along with builders.

Barb Berggoetz



5. Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force

The past year was a very successful and record-breaking year for the HFOHN Task Force. We continued the activities that have been so successful for us in the past, and also added a new “Dine and Donate” event at a local restaurant to raise money for Hoosier Hills Food Bank. We plan to host more of these restaurant fundraisers in the near future. They are a great way to raise funds to fight hunger and to build community among people in our congregation.

2010-11 Activities and Totals:

Each One Feed One Food Drive. (August 2010) This is a city-wide food drive for Monroe County United Ministries’ Emergency Food Pantry (MCUM), collecting non-perishable items on-site at local grocery stores. Five members of HFOHN volunteered at the College Mall Kroger location, approaching shoppers and asking them to purchase canned goods to donate. The total donated to MCUM was over 14,400 pounds of food.

Holiday Basket Food Drive. (November 2010) This is our annual food drive for MCUM’s Emergency Food Pantry. Individuals and families at the church can donate a “holiday basket” that will benefit a local family in need. A basket is actually 2-3 days worth of groceries, which can include the fixings for a holiday meal. In 2010, our congregation donated 89 holiday baskets. The total pounds of food donated in the baskets added up to 7,900 lbs.

BountyFull Sunday Food Drive: Monthly food drive held the first Sunday of each month to benefit MCUM. HFOHN task force members set up the tables for this drive each month and transport the donated food to MCUM. 2010 totals: 2155 lbs of food. January-May 2011 totals: 1144 lbs.

For 2010, the UU Church Bloomington was the top congregation donating food to MCUM’s Emergency Food Pantry! This is the first time this has happened. UU’s donated 10,055 lbs of food through the Holiday Basket and BountyFull Sunday Food drives combined. This church donated more than twice the amount of non-perishable food than any other church in the Bloomington/Monroe County area. This is very exciting news for our task force and the church.

Fiber Arts Booth at Holiday Bazaar. (December 2010). HFOHN runs a booth at the bazaar where we sell hand knit and handmade fiber items (scarves, hats, quilts, etc.). Members and friends of the congregation make these items and donate them to the sale. In 2010, the booth brought in \$1068.

CROP Walk. (October 2010) A local walk to fight hunger that is part of a national event that benefits local and national hunger agencies. We had several walkers and raised about \$200.

Homeward Bound Walk. (April 2011) A local walk to raise money for local agencies that help homeless people. We had two walkers who raised about \$300.

Dine and Donate. (May 2011). A new fundraising event for our group. We sponsored an evening at Lennie's Restaurant where UUs could dine during certain hours and have 20% of their bill donated to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank by Lennie's. This was a popular event – we gave away all of the 40 certificates that diners needed to have to participate. Many UUs were there enjoying good food and good company. However, we haven't received the total donated from Lennie's yet. We plan to have more of these fundraisers later in the year, beginning in August or September.

2010-11 Totals:

Total Pounds of Food Donated: 11,199
Total Money Donated to local agencies: \$ 1,568

Anne Graham



6. Hope for Prisoners Task Force

Different name, same purpose and goals. We have 15 active members who are involved in advocacy, mentoring, and partnering with people incarcerated and/or paroled. Our community partners are NewLeaf/NewLife, OASIS, and BCADP.

Crafting Bridges, addictions counseling, life skills programs, employment search, spiritual guidance, socialization—we reach out in many ways. Our task force members also work with Area 10, Salvation Army, Work One, and other organizations that have programs for parolees and families.

Hope for Prisoners gave \$350 for reading glasses and birth certificates for inmates at the Monroe County Jail (MCJ). And we continue to collect quilting materials for the Quilt Project at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). The quilters, in turn, donated 50 quilts to Bloomington's Winter Homeless Shelter in December.

Afro Hoosier International (thanks to Bob Port) played for a benefit dance in February. Great music, great fun, and we were able to give \$250 apiece to NL/NL and OASIS to provide needed supplies to jail programs and parolees, and \$100 to Women Writing for a Change for materials for their bi-monthly writing circle at MCJ.

Through Common Ground, we have kept the congregation informed of the need for sentencing reform in Indiana and, during coffee hour, we obtained many signatures to that end and in opposition to a new prison that the state plans to construct.

Thanks to the Green Sanctuary Task Force for donating the leftover men's clothing to WVCF and women's clothing to the Indiana Women's Prison at the end of their clothing swaps last fall and this spring. Those clothes will be used by parolees as they move back into the community.

Besides our ongoing volunteer efforts, our goal for this fall is to put renewed energy into the Read-to-Me program. Volunteers will record prisoners as they read books to their children or grandchildren. Each recording and book will then be given to the children. This program has been successful in many jails and prisons in helping to renew or develop relationships between family members. We will have another children's book drive as we get this off the ground and running. We also plan to do a display of poetry and arts and crafts of people incarcerated, perhaps at the Showers Building.

Hope for Prisoners has monthly meetings at 11:30AM, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the church library. Contact person: Glenda Breeden, bgbreeden@att.net, 812-829-3431.

Glenda Breeden



7. The International Outreach Task Force

The mission of the International Outreach Task Force (IOTF) is to provide direct financial, material, and/or humanitarian support to specified international development projects with the aim of bettering lives and building human bridges between people of different cultures. The core intent of the IOTF is to direct our efforts toward supporting small scale service/development projects that are tied directly to members of our congregation and/or community. The IOTF will also focus on enhancing the



IOTF member Jason Blankenship with students in Kpain, Liberia.



Member of Ndethya wa Ngutethya with family, Kathonzweni, Kenya.

development of cultural awareness, understanding, compassion, and Love in our congregation and greater community. We feel that, by both its inherent nature and our specific intent as a task force, the work of the IOTF supports core principles of Unitarian Universalism including; The inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Since its inception in 2008 the IOTF has worked with congregation and local community members to help support education initiatives in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Costa Rica. In 2009 the IOTF partnered with the People's Church, a UU congregation in Kalamazoo, MI, to help support an ongoing micro-lending project being run by a Unitarian congregation in Bujumbura, Burundi. In 2008 the IOTF began an ongoing association with congregation member Claire Robertson to support the Ndethya wa Ngutethya women's agricultural cooperative based in Kathonzweni, Kenya. Most recently, in the tragic aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the IOTF has dedicated itself to supporting long term relief efforts in Haiti on behalf of the UUCB congregation. On top of \$3,620 raised by the congregation in a special collection to support the Unitarian Universalist Association/Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Joint Haiti Relief Fund, the IOTF raised an additional \$6,264 in support of the UUA/UUSC initiative and Partners in Health, Haiti. This made for a total of \$9,884 raised by our congregation in 2010 in support of Haiti relief efforts.



Imagine Haitian co-founder Lizzie Cooke inspecting the nursery at Eben-Ezer Mission

For 2011 the IOTF is focusing on 2 small scale community based international service projects that fit well with our core purpose. In July of 2011, 2 members of the IOTF, Claire Robertson and Jennifer Blankenship, will be traveling to Kathonzweni, Kenya to represent our congregation and strengthen the ties of love and fellowship that link our community with the women and families of Ndethya was Ngutethya. This trip will focus on viewing the progress of past and current projects, meeting with the leadership of Ndethya wa Ngutethya to discuss ideas for the future, and to investigate the potential of having a dedicated representative based in Nairobi to better facilitate communication and transfer of funds in support of the project. The members of the trip will also be shopping the markets of Nairobi in search of beads, cloth, baskets and other handmade Kenyan goods to bring back and sell in support of this project.

In our continuing effort to support long term Haiti relief the IOTF is proud to be partnering with the non-profit organization Imagine Haitian. Created and operated under the initiative of congregation member Lizzy Cooke, Imagine Haitian collaborates with community groups near Gonaives, Haiti to promote environmental education, reforestation, and alternative fuels. The Haitian partners of Imagine Haitian include Eben-Ezer Mission of Gonaives, the Mapou Women's Organization, the La Croix Peasant Association, and the Passe-Reine Youth Group. For more information on Imagine Haitian please go to www.imaginehaitian.org. Jason Blankenship



8. Just Peace Task Force

The highlight of the year for the Just Peace Task Force was a talk held at the Church in October by Barry Sanders, author of *The Green Zone: The Environmental Costs of Militarism*. He pointed out that while many of us recycle, try to drive less, and use less heating and cooling, a huge part of our collective ecological footprint lies elsewhere: in the environmental destruction caused by war and the military. The Pentagon is the world's largest polluter. To protect the global climate, we must work for peace. The task force co-sponsored the event, attended by 150, with Bloomington Peace Action Coalition and other groups including the Bloomington Environmental Commission, the Center for Sustainable Living, and our own Green Sanctuary Task Force.

Making connections with those working for environmental and economic justice is increasingly important to peace activism. More than ten years after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, the United States continues to wage an open ended and ill defined "war on terror," and President Obama has continued many of President George W. Bush's policies. Military spending consumes more than half of Federal discretionary spending at a time when budgets are being slashed across the nation for education and social services during a severe recession. Yet – in part because there is no draft, and daily life continues for most of us – people's willingness to turn out for peace events has sharply decreased, not only here but for peace groups nationally. Connections and alliances will be crucial. Equally important will be exploring the personal side of peace: how can we lead more peaceful lives, and how does the personal reflect and change the public and political?

In 2010, the Unitarian Universalist Association adopted a denominational Statement of Conscience "Creating Peace" (<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/13394.shtml>). The Just Peace Task Force worked successfully to strengthen the first draft and played a role in inserting language opposing "unilateral interventions and extended military occupations as dangerous new forms of imperialism." On the floor of General Assembly, our Church's delegates and Rev. Bill Breeden proposed and carried language "supporting nonviolent resisters and their families, and providing them with opportunities to share what they have learned."

We want *You* for the Just Peace Task Force. Please contact David Keppel Keppel@sbcglobal.net, (812) 331-2815.

David Keppel



9. Katrina Relief Task Force

The Katrina Relief Task Force of the Social Justice program has wrapped up its work, after the fifth group went to New Orleans to work during spring break this year. We are closing out the program because the Little Farms United Church of Christ that we worked out of in New Orleans is closing its program due to diminishing funds and diminishing numbers of volunteers. Altogether we had 60 volunteers in our five crews, with many going multiple times.

Here's a report on this year's efforts:

The group worked on two houses. At both locations they were finishing items left over at the end of the remodel; this is known as a "punch list."

At one home, Kristiana, Sarah and Barb comprised the painting crew. There was a lot of painting. Tim from Little Farms UCC did most of the carpentry, including hanging a door and installing transition strips, assisted by Marcus. Hugh finished drywall and worked with Marcus on repairing the vinyl siding on the back of the house.

The whole crew worked together for an afternoon replacing an outdoor soffit.

At the second home, each member of the group worked on many projects, but had at least one major accomplishment. Gloria prepped and painted the master bathroom. Jesse laid tile and stained and placed the baseboards in the other bathroom. and spent nearly a day and a half sanding the kitchen cupboards so they could be refinished. Bill was the master handyman doing a number of tasks from hanging the venetian blinds, to making touch-ups on paint, and in general making sure that doors, hinges, and windows were in proper working order. Chris and Candene worked together on cleaning the woodwork throughout the house. They also spent a couple of days prepping for and blowing in installation. They both now claim to have a new appreciation for people who do that for a living. They also stained and finished the kitchen cupboards.

Both punch lists were substantially "punched out."

David Parkhurst



10. Rainbow Rights Task Force (RRTF)

The Rainbow Rights Task Force (RRTF) has once again become active after being inactive for several years. The reactivation was a two stage process. During the first stage a contact person was identified in an effort to channel requests related to LGBTQIA concerns. This was very informal and at best a hit and miss approach. The second stage involved a more formal organization; identifying members and friends in the congregation who had a shared interest and willingness to be involved, scheduling meetings, and planning activities.

Activities and accomplishment during the past year include:

- The RRTF supported Spencer Pride by having a table with brochures from the church. We also had the Standing on the Side of Love banner on loan from the Heartland District.
- The RRTF was contacted with a request for information by a congregation member who had a friend whose partner had been hospitalized. This hospital quite possibly could have been less than accommodating to these same sex partners. We were able to provide our member with information from the Human Rights Campaign web site so accurate information was available to stand up for friends.
- The RRTF was contacted by a member of our congregation and informed that the AIDS Quilt would be on display. We were asked if there was anything we could do to assist with that effort. The AIDS Quilt display was being sponsored by Positive Link of Bloomington Hospital. We contacted them and they needed monitors to provide safety while the quilt was on display. The RRTF put out a call and several people volunteered to be quilt monitors. When viewing the quilt one is left with powerful feelings of love and loss, a life lived but much too short.
- The RRTF was approached by a representative of the PRIDE Film Festival and asked if we would be interested in co-sponsoring a pre-PRIDE event. The plan was hatched to have a screening of the film, "8 - The Mormon Proposition" to be followed by a panel discussion. This is a documentary film about the Mormon Church's support during the campaign to pass Proposition 8 in California. We did this and had around a hundred people attend. Several came back and attended services on Sunday and signed up for the RRTF at the Getting Involved Fair. This was a very successful event.
- The RRTF put a call out to our congregation to participate in the Rally for Equality. This was a rally in opposition to HJR-6. HJR-6 in part proposes to place one man and one woman as the definition of marriage in the Indiana constitution as well as further restrict civil options and domestic partner benefits. It is much worse than merely a marriage discrimination amendment. We had a very good response from our congregation with many families Standing on the Side of Love in opposition to this proposed amendment.

- The RRTF has agreed to work with the International Outreach Task Force to do a fund raiser for the UU-UNO Uganda Fund. LGBTIQA discrimination is rampant and fueled by right wing Christian missionaries in Uganda. We are committed to doing this in the coming year.

Phil Cooper

Special Purposes Fund Committee Annual Report 2010-11

Committee Members: Tom Hollingsworth, Clarke Miller, Karen Jewell, President Steve Dillon and Treasurer John Lawson.

Purpose of Fund: Special contributions are allocated for capital assets, amenities and auxiliary purposes of the Church.

Activities During the 2010-2011 Church Year:

1. Replacing carpeting in Fellowship Hall. This project required immediate attention and the funds were a non-interest paying loan to the Green Spaces Fund Raising Committee. \$8,000 from the Jan Skinner Fund 6/30/10. Will be repaid once funds are raised by the campaign.
2. Purchase of a new videotaping camera to record the Sunday services and to broadcast to other rooms \$1200. from the Frances Lockett Disabilities Fund. 6/2010
3. A \$15,000 interest-paying loan to the Green Spaces Fund Raising Committee for preparation work (architect fees, etc.) for the subsequent campaign. \$13,000 from Charles and Dorothy Vitaliano Fund and \$2,000 from the Jan Skinner Fund. August 31, 2010. Interest will match the lowest return SPF gets on its investments.
4. Justice and Faith Formation 2020 Workshop on 2/25-27/11 \$3000, from the Lundin Social Justice Large Grant B Fund, and an investigative trip on Bringing Hope Meadow to Bloomington \$250, from the Lundin Social Justice Small Grant A Fund, 12/9/10.
5. Bus passes for winter shelter clients \$347.56 1/11/11. \$131 from the Cliff Baker Fund and \$216.56 from the Dick Pfister Fund.
6. Dinner for UUA President Peter Morales with church and city leaders \$364.74 April, '11. \$62.74 from the Herb Kiesling Fund and \$302 from the James Kamman Fund.
7. Compensation consultant fee to review staff salaries so as to become a model employer \$500. \$267 from the Walt Owens Fund and \$233 from the Herb Kiesling Fund, April 2011.

The committee reviewed its investments August 31, 2010, with advisors Lloyd Orr, Andrew Appel, Rob Hongen and Shari Woodbury. Such reviews are planned at regular intervals in the future.

Donations Received During Church Year: \$2,450

Total Assets as of May 19, 2011: \$133,953

This report was compiled by Clarke Miller, SPF Committee Chairperson, and Carol Marks, Church Administrator, May 2011.

Women's Alliance Annual Report 2010-2011

Women's Alliance met the first Thursday of each month from Sept. 2010 through June 2011, with the exception of the February meeting which was canceled because of inclement weather. Members and guests gather for a brown bag lunch and socializing from 11:30 to 12:00 with beverages and desserts provided by volunteer hosts. Programs begin at 12:00 followed by a business meeting around 12:30. In July and August members gather informally for lunch and socializing; no program is provided.

Programs this year included a report on the proposed renovation of Fellowship Hall and the courtyard, oral histories collected by Pat Harris from members of the League of Women Voters, a presentation from the Bloomington Funeral Consumers Alliance, a lecture and demonstration on creating art with glass, a presentation from the Jewish Theatre Group, reflections on working in Indiana's correctional system, a history of Monroe County's post offices, and a report on recent activities of Middle Way House. We enjoyed a holiday music program in December from Scott Hogsed and Ray Fellman.

The Women's Alliance was honored to host a congregational wedding reception on September 26 for Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Deborah Phelps, who were married in Vermont, Deborah's home state, on September 22, 2010.

Women's Alliance has donated funds to Middle Way House, Women's History Month Lunch, Soup Bowl, and Hoosier Hills Food Bank. We have also supported the Sycamore Land Trust and Habitat Women's Build.

Current officers are: President, Lois Holl; Vice President, Anna Wiley; Secretary, Pat Harris; Treasurer, Carol Arnold. For the 2011-2012 year members elected: President, Lois Holl; Vice President, Sharon Yarber; Secretary, Pat Harris; Treasurer, Roberta Watson.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Holl, President