

The Prologue

December 4, 2006

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
Congregation founded 1949



*Seeking the Spirit Building Our Community
Changing the World*

Weds, December 6 Dinner 5:30 p.m., Family Worship 6:15 p.m.
"Singing the Season" Reverend Emily Manvel Leite and Cindy Port

Sunday, December 10 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

"Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi

As a part of our services, our wonderful choir led by Music Director Susan Swaney will present its annual Holiday Concert. Antonio Vivaldi died in Vienna in 1741 and was buried in a pauper's grave. Two and a half centuries later, his music enriches the world in which we live. Vivaldi's "Gloria," with its distinctive melodies and rhythms, brings sunshine to a winter season. We hope you will join us and experience the warmth this music brings to the heart.
—Rev. Bill Breeden and Rev. Mary Ann Macklin

Wednesday, December 13 6:00 p.m. Centering with MAM

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin invites you to attend "Centering with MAM," a meditative worship opportunity, on Wednesday, December 13, 6:00-6:45pm in the Library

Sunday, December 17 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

"Procession of Giving: Sharing our Gifts" Rev. Emily Manvel Leite

This festive intergenerational service will celebrate the season of giving through stories, poetry, reflection, familiar songs, and a pantomime by some of our middle school youth. It will culminate in our annual Procession of Giving, in which the whole congregation joins in a joyous parade of gifts for those in need in our local community and the larger world. Please bring the gift you chose from the Giving Tree (tags available on Dec. 10), your Guest at Your Table box, and/or new mittens, hats, socks or underwear for people of any age. There will be golden foil available in the Order of Service for those who prefer to give a "Golden Gift" of money in any amount, large or small, to further the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Child care is available for children up to preschool age.

Thursday, December 21 Pizza Dinner 5:30 p.m., Service at 6:15 p.m.

Intergenerational Solstice Service

Rev. Emily Manvel Leite, Cindy Port, and Beckie Wagner

Come observe the turning of the season. Our quiet, joyful solstice ceremony will be designed for people ages 6 to 96. We will share a time of growing darkness, then bring back the light together through ritual and song. The children's choir will be performing as a part of this service. Child care will be available for children up to preschool age.

Sabbatical Scoop

Rev. Macklin to Take Sabbatical

Aug-Dec 2007

The Sabbatical Committee met recently with church staff to explore the opportunities during Reverend Mary Ann Macklin's sabbatical (August 1st through December 2007). Additionally, the Friendly Friday Potluck, held November 10th and co-sponsored by the Membership Committee, was a big success. 60 people gathered to welcome newcomers and enjoy fellowship and food. There was a question and answer session with the ministers and with the Sabbatical Committee. Highlights:

1. We are applying for a Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant, due at the end of January. The grant can cover up to \$30,000 for Reverend Macklin's sabbatical expenses. The grant also funds up to \$15,000 in congregation expenses during the sabbatical period, allowing for pulpit supply, special programming, and other costs. We are looking for broad congregational support in this application process.

2. We will be asking the membership for a vote of support for the Clergy Renewal Grant process at the December 10th congregational meeting.

3. We are also developing a plan for Reverend Macklin's sabbatical in the event we do not receive the Lilly Grant. This would be a more modest sabbatical scenario. It will draw from our sabbatical reserve funds and some ministerial budget lines in order to fund Reverend Macklin's activities during her time of renewal as well as our congregation's programmatic and ministerial needs.

MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND THE DECEMBER 10TH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to cast their votes regarding our congregation's support of this wonderful process. Please send any questions and comments to the sabbatical committee care of the church office, admin@uubloomington.org

Andrew Appel, Jason Hill,
Beth Hollingsworth, Clarke Miller, and
Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and
Reverend Bill Breeden.

From the Ministers:

We hope that this holiday month hasn't caught you by surprise. We hope you have time to enjoy the season rather than merely endure it. Take time to breathe and celebrate the gift of "being here" again.

We want to thank Elizabeth Lion and her cadre of volunteers for hosting the Thanksgiving dinner at the church. It was well attended by UUs, international students, and others who were looking for fellowship on that holiday.

We also want to thank Diann Lock and Julie Lawson for their excellent leadership and coordination of our annual Holiday Bazaar. Thank you also to the many volunteers who put in countless hours to make the event a resounding success.

As this calendar year moves to completion, may we all find time for sharing the gifts of love and light with others. May the warmth of community soften the cold winds and warm our hearts to hear the music message of this season in new ways. May Hanukkah remind us to rededicate our hearts as Temples of the Holy. May we prepare our lives to receive the new life-giving light of the Solstice with joy. May Kwanzaa remind us of family, community and culture. May we remember the message of Christmas is peace and glad tidings to all persons.

Peace--mary ann & bill

Celebrating Together

This December we have many opportunities to celebrate together.

Enjoy hot soup and help us sing in the holidays at our Family Worship on December 6th. Dinner is served at 5:30pm and the service starts at 6:15pm featuring Christmas carols and a story. Hot chocolate and cookies will conclude the evening.

December 17th will be the Procession of Giving service led by Rev. Emily Manvel Leite. You can pick up ornaments from the Giving Tree this Sunday, or just bring socks, underwear, mittens, hats or non-perishable food for all ages. Bring your Guest at your Table boxes on Dec. 17.

Come celebrate the return of the sun at our Winter Solstice ritual on Thursday December 21st. We will enjoy a pizza dinner at 5:30 pm and begin the worship service at 6:15pm. Our Children's Choir will perform, and everyone is invited. Childcare will be available for our youngest children.

On Christmas Eve we will have childcare and vacation Religious Education at the 9am and 11:15am services. Our Family Christmas Eve worship starts at 4pm led by Rev. Macklin. Designed for families with younger children, the service is brief and informal; all the children help act out the Nativity Story. Our more traditional Christmas Eve service begins at 7pm. Childcare will only be available at the morning services, but as always, children are welcome at any service.

Happy Holidays!

Cindy Port

Acting Director of Religious Education

dre@uubloomington.org



Notably for Newcomers

Membership has both an institutional and a spiritual meaning. Joining this church is an inward self-discovery and self-definition, and it is an outward siding with life-attitudes you feel are important enough to warrant the backing of a group of people standing together. These life-attitudes are neglected or negated by some forms of religion in our day, but together we stand for them:

The sacred is in this world, in this life, dwelling here, now, within, around, among us.

Humanity is not basically depraved, but rather we have within us the capacity for creativity, wonder and goodwill, no matter how bad things may be.

The human spirit does not benefit from unyielding dogmatism, but rather must be free if it is fully to flower.

We do not have to go it alone; we are made for one another.

There is more than meets the eye, more than meets even the disciplined, questioning mind.

We and all human persons go deeper than we have yet seen, are richer than we yet know.

These are my words for some of the attitudes for which I think the people of ... [our] Church stand. Some will want to express them another way and you may have more to add. But if you are coming to feel at home here, do consider joining the church. We need you to stand with us. We need your support. This congregation needs you to help enrich its ongoing life by making yourself a part of it.

by Rev. Roy D. Phillips



Greetings from the Stewardship Committee

As a prelude to our annual stewardship campaign, we will be running a series of letters in *The Prologue* from church members, highlighting the role the church plays in their lives and how giving financially affects programs within the church. We are hoping that some of you, as leaders of important church programs that are funded in whole or in part by the annual operating budget, would be willing to write a brief letter (up to 150 words) that we could use for this project. We hope these letters will get people excited about their giving by seeing the ripples that their money creates.

Our past stewardship drives have been very successful, and we feel that a way to continue this success is to make people aware of all the things their church gifts make possible. In addition to touching on the sorts of programs our annual operating budget makes possible, feel free to daydream a little and talk about the kinds of things we COULD do if our budget allowed.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are willing to write such a letter to go in *The Prologue*. We are very grateful for all that you do for the church (and know that you are all busy people!), and are grateful for any help you can give us in getting the congregation as excited as we are about our upcoming pledge drive.

Many thanks,
Drew and Margie Schrader
Stewardship Co-Chairs

UU Grocery Certificates Fundraiser

We want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who purchases grocery certificates. Since our fiscal year began on July 1, we have sold an average of \$3,000 per Sunday. One Sunday's sale was a record-breaker--\$4,221! The net (5% of the total) is given to the church. We presented a check for \$1,125 to the church in October.

For those of you who haven't tried the program, come to our table in the Commons between services on Sunday. One of our committee members can tell you how to use the certificates and thereby earn for the church 5 cents for every dollar you spend on groceries at Marsh, O'Malia's, Kroger, or Bloomingfoods. Kroger has a new program that offers gift cards rather than certificates which should make it even easier for you. Stop by our table and we can give you more information about how to sign up.

Sheri Benham & Harriet Pfister

Chalice Circles Open

If you would like to join our Chalice Circles small group ministry, be sure to contact the church office. You may join a Chalice Circle at any time.

Art Fair and Bazaar



**Estimated Net from Art Fair and Bazaar Tops
\$10,000**

Thanks to everyone who participated!



Thanks for the Cookies!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Cookie Walk a success! We sold almost 240 pounds year. Thanks to all of the cookie bakers, Cookie Walk eaters. We couldn't have done it without you. Next

of cookies this
workers, and cookie
year, 250 pounds!

-- The Cookie Walk Committee



Fundraiser Meal to Follow December 10

Congregational Meeting: Support our Youth!

Our fall Congregational Meeting will be Dec. 10th at 4pm. All members are strongly encouraged to attend as part of your role in this liberal community. Our youth, YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists), will be preparing a meal for all of us directly after the Congregational Meeting. Donations for the meal will support the YRUU program at our church.



BOUNTY- FULL SUNDAY January 7 Collection for MCUM Food Pantry

Immediate needs at the Monroe County United Ministries Food Pantry:

Creamed soups
Tomato soup
Cornbread mix

Canned meats (no tuna)
Bisquick

A grocery cart is located at the back of the Meeting Room on Sundays to receive your donations. The Food Pantry cannot use out of date products.

Ready To Sign The Book?

If you are prepared for the commitment of membership in our liberal religious community, the next opportunity to sign the Membership Book is Sunday, December 17 between the services at 10:30 in the Meditation Room (Room 207B) on the 2nd floor. (Please note: We recommend participation in our "Exploring UU" class prior to signing the book.)

BULLETIN BOARD

FROG AND TOAD play at Buskirk Chumley; fun for all ages, Dec. 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 7:30pm, matinees at 2pm Dec 16 & 23. Tickets at Sunrise Box Office (812-323-3020), or

<http://www.bloomingtonarts.info>

NORDIC TRACK pro ski exercise machine, \$50. Good condition. For delivery call Al Strickholm 339-5440. The \$50 will be donated by us to the church.

Harvest for Hope Will Meet January 7

The "Harvest for Hope" adult religious education class will meet next on Sunday, January 7, 2007, 3:00-4:45 p.m. Bring a healthful snack to share. --Mary Ann (Reverend Mary Ann Macklin)

Montecinos To Give Program For Alliance December 7

Church members Alfonso Montecino, pianist and Professor Emeritus of Music at IU, and Siri Garson-Montecino, mezzo-soprano, present a Holiday Program in Music and Words for the Women's Alliance on Thurs., Dec. 7 at the church. A brown bag lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. in fellowship hall; beverages and dessert to be provided by hostesses Jean Anderson and Dorothy Davis. The program begins at 12 noon. Guests are particularly welcome for this special program.

Alliance members should bring unwrapped gifts for the women of Middle Way House. Gift suggestions: bath towel sets, slippers (all sizes, esp. 7,8,9), underwear size 5 and 6, alarm clocks, tweezers, nail clippers, and lip balm.

Parent Talk – Date Change: Parents of Adults (Parent Talk) will meet on Sunday, December 17, from 12:15 – 2:15 in the Library. Bring a brown bag lunch and join the discussion. We meet to share joys and concerns and ideas about staying connected with our adult children. Dorothy Sowell 334-0169, d.j.sowell@insightbb.com

Fall Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 4:00 p.m.
In the Meeting Room at 2120 N. Fee Lane
ALL MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND.
Childcare provided for children under 13.
Fundraising Supper after meeting.

Thanks From Monroe County United Ministries Task Force

In 1998 the congregation voted to set aside 3% of total building fund pledges to support social justice projects. The Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) task force would like to thank the congregation, and the Social Justice Funds Committee which administers the grants, for awarding us a \$500 grant. This will finance a fundraising concert in the spring and a Stone Soup luncheon next fall, both of which will benefit the Monroe County United Ministries food pantry. We greatly appreciate your support in fighting hunger in Monroe County.

Attendance Figures

Sun, Nov. 26, 9:00–64; 11:15–148; Totl 212

Religious Ed.: numbers not available

Sun, Dec. 3, 9:00–102; 11:15–293; Totl 369

Religious Ed.: 9:00-- 26 children, 9 adults,

11:15— 48 children, 17 adults

Sunday Plate Offering Figures

Sun, Nov 26 non-pledge offering: \$287

Sun, Dec 3 non-pledge offering: \$360

Total to Stepping Stones Inc.: \$162

Church Directories Mailed in Early November

Members: Contact the church if you did not receive the new **vibrant yellow** church directory, dated October 31, 2006.

Community Connections Our faith in action in the community

Car Donations Needed

Monroe County "Wheels to Work"

There have been several television and radio ads asking for donated cars but **Monroe County Wheels to Work Program** is the **ONLY** program that repairs the cars you donate to provide families in Monroe County affordable reliable transportation to seek and maintain employment. To donate a car, contact Ron Thompson at the Youth Services Bureau, 349-2588. Details of the program are posted on the courtyard bulletin board.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Offers Family Class

Do you have a loved one who suffers from a major mental illness? Do you need help in coping with crisis situations? The Bloomington affiliate of National Alliance on Mental Illness sponsors a 12-week educational Family to Family class beginning February 7, 2007, at First United Church, 2420 East Third Street, and taught by Al and Lee Strickholm, trained volunteers. The class is free of charge but pre-enrollment is required. For more information contact the Strickholms at 339-5440 or leestrick@aol.com.

Team Ministry

Our congregation is served by a ministry team: Rev. Mary Ann Macklin (86%); Rev. Bill Breeden (86%). Each minister serves the entire congregation; each has specific areas of focus.

Ministers' Schedules

Rev. Macklin's regular day off is Tuesday.

Office hours: M, W, Th, F

Her mobile number is 322-0205.

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

Office hours: M, T, F

His mobile number is 360-1779.

Lunch with a Minister

Have lunch with a minister once a month. Rev. Breeden invites all who wish to attend to bring a brown bag lunch and join him in Fellowship Hall on Monday, December 18 at 12 noon.

Faith in Action Forums

Take place in the Library on Sunday at 10:15-11:30 a.m. (Contact Jackie Hall, jmhall@indiana.edu, to schedule a forum.)

Forum topics are listed in *The Prologue* as scheduled.

Where is the church calendar?

A current church activities calendar is located at: www.uubloomington.org/roomCal/monthFull.php, as well as in every issue of the Prologue.



UU Children's Choir Schedule

UU Children's Choir will practice Dec. 10 and Dec. 17th, 10:15-11:00 a.m. in Room 212, in preparation for singing at the Family Winter Solstice Service on Thurs. evening, Dec. 21st. We welcome new singers in grades K-8. Questions? Contact Jill Waggener at jwaggene@mccsc.edu or 330-8829.

Our Folks...

Our sympathy and prayers are with Kevin Woodruff and his family; Kevin's mother passed away recently.

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