

# The Prologue

April 16, 2007

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana  
Congregation founded 1949

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



**Sunday, April 22, 2007 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

"The Web of Life: an Intergenerational Earth Day Celebration"  
Reverend Emily Manvel Leite with the Sunday Services Committee

Come enjoy poetry, stories, songs and reflection as we celebrate our beautiful planet earth and think together about how to live lightly upon it. We will recognize the good work each of us has done over the past year to care for the planet, and to commit ourselves to doing more in the year to come. Special music from our children's and adult choirs. Please plan to attend the EARTH FAIR after each service. There will be lots of opportunities to learn more about caring for the earth, as well as free trees for all. Come early for the best selection of trees! Our high school youth group will be helping those who need a hand to plant their trees.

**Congregational Meeting Apr 22** Remember to attend the Special Congregational Meeting on April 22 at 12:30 p.m. A one-item agenda: to discuss use of reserve funds to re-finance the mortgage on our building. For details, see March 19 issue of the Prologue or contact Treasurer Lloyd Orr, [treasurer@uubloomington.org](mailto:treasurer@uubloomington.org).

**Sunday, April 29, 2007 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

"May Day! May Day! May Day!"

Rev. Bill Breeden

Who is calling for help? Who is listening?



**Pledged Yet?** Our valiant Stewardship Committee would like to wrap up the pledge drive for 07-08 in the next week or so. If you received your pledge card in the mail, please complete and return it to the church as soon as possible. You may also pledge by calling 332-3695, email to [admin@uubloomington.org](mailto:admin@uubloomington.org), or completing a pledge card at church on April 22. Cards are available in the Workroom, Room 204. Be a part of this amazing congregation; make a financial commitment! Thank you to everyone who has already pledged! We're All in This Together!



## MAM's Musings

Our congregation recently received an invitation to participate in a unique inter-religious event on Sunday, April 29: "Building Bridges: A Celebration of Divine Messages." It will be held from 5pm to 7pm in Ivy Tech's Commons and will include a meal and keynote address by Rev. Philip Gulley, author of the Harmony fiction series, as well as non-fiction works *If Grace Is True* and *If God Is Love*. A freewill offering will be received at the event to help defray the cost. Any excess funds will be contributed to either future Building Bridges events or to a local food pantry.

This event is being organized by an ad hoc interfaith group that includes members of the Muslim, Jewish, Christian and other religious communities. We, Unitarian Universalists, will be named co-sponsors along with the Bahais of Bloomington; Bloomington Islamic Center; Bloomington Muslim Dialog Group; City of Bloomington's Community and Family Resources Department; First Christian Church; First United Methodist Church; Ivy Tech Community College; Unity Center. That's darned good company for an evening!

We hope some of you can attend this event. The final deadline for reservations is Monday, April 23. Folks will be seated in a manner to encourage inter-faith conversation. Please e-mail or call me, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin or Reverend Bill Breeden by April 22<sup>nd</sup> if you plan to attend, so we can send our reservation.

If you can volunteer to provide a side-dish to supplement the entrée or if you have any detailed questions about the event, please contact Anne McLaughlin at 812.327.3804, [annetm@bloomington.in.us](mailto:annetm@bloomington.in.us)

Peace, MAM (Reverend Mary Ann Macklin)

## The West Window

I want to pay tribute to one of the people whose words changed my life although our paths never crossed. Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five* is one of the prominent markers as I look back across my pilgrimage. He died last week at the age of 84. I recently read his last book, *A Man Without a Country*. Vonnegut, a Humanist and closely associated with Unitarian Universalism, wrote:

"And if I should ever die, God forbid, I hope you will say, "Kurt is up in heaven now." That's my favorite joke. How do humanists feel about Jesus? I say of Jesus, if what he said is good, and so much of it is absolutely beautiful, what does it matter if he was God or not? But if Christ hadn't delivered the Sermon on the Mount, with its message of mercy and pity, I wouldn't want to be a human being. I'd just as soon be a rattlesnake."

I give thanks for being part of religious community that can affirm with Vonnegut the wisdom of religious traditions without being trapped in the accumulated dogma.

We are in the final stage of this year's pledge drive. If you have yet to pledge, I ask you to consider the value of this community of diversity and tolerance. As you do so listen to Vonnegut's plea, "...I urge you to please notice when you are happy, and exclaim or murmur or think at some point, "If this isn't nice, I don't know what is."

I guess that is as good as advice as I have to give. Notice when you are happy and consider the gift of this community as you consider the gift you will make with your pledge.  
Peace—bill (Reverend Bill Breeden)

## **REaster Bunny Still Hunting for Teachers**

Yes the REaster bunny is still hunting for teachers for our exciting summer and fall Religious Education (RE) programs for children and youth. We have ambitious plans for the summer but we need your help!

June: Peace and Social Justice Month

Learn about other cultures and find out what we can do to help people in impoverished and war torn countries. Heifer International's Read to Feed program and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will receive special focus.

July: Creative Arts Month

Explore spirituality through creativity and the arts. May include quilting, poetry, cooking, music or dance, depending on interests of participants and volunteers.

August: Earth Celebration Month

Get in touch with nature and spend a Sunday celebrating each of the four elements; earth, air, fire and water.

Sound like fun? Do you have any talents, passions or gifts to share? Summer is a great time to give teaching a try but we have a special need for fall teachers. We are excited about our new fall curriculum which includes world religions, UU identity and justice work. Please contact us.

Cindy Port

Rev. Emily Manvel Leite

## **Courtyard Committee Update**

The Courtyard Committee (Cynthia Port, Deborah Hutton, Tom Gregory, and Cindy Port) has begun sharing its ideas for a possible redesign of the courtyard. This group originated as a subcommittee of the Religious Education Committee in 2004, whose aim was to improve our playground. Early in its deliberations, the group realized that the courtyard is our most usable outdoor green space and set to work identifying the various needs of our community that might be better met with a careful rethinking of the space. At the same time, the Building Oversight Committee has had a goal to improve the east façade of fellowship hall. They agreed to wait to see how a redesigned courtyard would incorporate façade changes.

In April 2006, the Board of Directors asked the Courtyard Committee to develop a design proposal. After 10 months of work, the committee is now beginning to share the ideas it has developed with various stakeholder groups and is receiving many wonderful questions, comments and ideas. The committee plans to present its ideas to the board this spring and with their approval to then hold a number of open discussions to collect comments and reactions from the congregation. Those meetings will be announced in the Prologue.



**Next Veggie Potluck in July** No Vegetarian Potlucks in April, May, or June, but save up those good veggie recipes for July, when we are planning an outdoor potluck. Green Sanctuary Task Force.



## **Saturday Film Series, Sat, April 21**

**Potluck @ 6 PM, Film @ 6:30**

Adult Religious Education and the Civil Marriage is a Civil Right Task Force join together for the Film Series this Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> with "The Laramie Project", a documentary exploring the powerful effect of hatred for someone different. We have invited two other churches in town who are also working to dispel prejudice against a minority group. Time is 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for the potluck, 6:30 for the film to be followed by discussion.

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

The congregation is warmly invited to attend a book signing for John Crosby's *The Flipside of Godspeak: Theism as Constructed Reality* on Sunday, April 29, from 10:00 to 11:00am in Fellowship Hall. A member of our congregation, John is an emeritus professor of marriage and family studies and therapy and a former Presbyterian pastor. -- Booktable Committee

## **Annual Reports Due May 15**

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, June 3 at 4:00 p.m., and so we would like to have brief written annual reports from committees, task forces, Board officers, and staff by May 15. Please send these electronically to Carol Marks, [admin@uubloomington.org](mailto:admin@uubloomington.org).



## **UU Children's Choir Schedule**

New singers welcome! This will be our last set of rehearsals until August!  
**Thurs. 4/19:** Extra rehearsal, 7-7:45pm Rm. 212  
**Sun. 4/22:** Sing Earth Day Services  
Questions? Contact Jill: [jwaggene@mccsc.edu](mailto:jwaggene@mccsc.edu) or 330-8829



**April 28 Clean Up Day** Grab your rake and get your hat and show up at the UU Parking lot, 9-12, Sat April 28<sup>th</sup>, for Spring Grounds Clean-up. Childcare will be provided (courtesy of Erica Whichello's Chalice Circle!)

## **Earth Celebrational! All Congregational! Intergenerational! UU Retreat!**

A big thank you to ALL the people who made this overnight retreat a splendid event for so many involved. Our earth mother is calling us to celebrate her. We did just that. Our earth mother is calling us to care for her. We did just that. May this spirit of global care and celebration continue for everyone in our congregational community and beyond. In gratitude, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

## **Defords To Speak At Women's Alliance May 3**

Beverly and Mike DeFord, long time members of our congregation, will speak at the Thursday, May 3, meeting of the Women's Alliance. Their topic is "Two Universalists Biking Through the Universe" and will include stories about their many summer biking tours. This is the annual salad luncheon and members are asked to bring a salad for six; beverages and dessert will be provided by the current Alliance officers. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program starts at 12 noon. Anyone needing babysitting services should call Harriet Pfister (339-3364) by Friday, April 27. Everyone, women and men, are invited.

## **Membership Committee Seeks Participants**

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

## **Pictorial Directory Coming in September**

September 20-29, 2007, everyone is invited to have a photo taken for the new church pictorial directory. Each family who participates will get a copy of the pictorial directory. If you would like to help with this project, contact Glee Noble and Jan Skinner, Co-chairs, Pictorial Directory Committee

## **New Books in Our Library**

- 155.9 Trozzi, Maria. Talking with Children about Loss.
- 200 Dinnett, Daniel C. Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon.
- 211 Crosby, John F. The Flipside of Godspeak: Theism as Constructed Reality.
- 220.6 Spong, John Shelby. Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism.
- 241.6 Ballou, Adin. Christian Non-Resistance.

## **Baby Dedication Set for May 13<sup>th</sup> Worship Services**

Our congregation sets aside special time in worship services each season (spring, summer, fall, winter) for a special rite of passage: Baby Dedication. The next date is Sunday, May 13th. Baby dedications are intended as celebrations of the miracle of life, the sacredness of the child-parent bond, and the importance of a strong reciprocal relationship between family and a supportive community. To be included, please contact Reverend Mary Ann Macklin at 332-3695 or [macklin@uubloomington.org](mailto:macklin@uubloomington.org) by May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please also let her know if you will be at the 9:00 am or 11:15 am worship service.

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## **UUs Changing the World**

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

**Jammin' For Justice Sing-Along April 20** This Friday Evening, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall! (see Common Ground for details.)



### **April 29 Faith in Action Forum at 10:15: UU Habitat for Humanity Task Force: Decent, Affordable Housing**

Decent, affordable housing is a critical need in Monroe County!

Join us at our first forum in a series to learn how Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County and other local groups are addressing this social justice issue.

Guest: **Deb Boudreau**, USDA Rural Development. Deb will share information about a subsidized loan program which helps low income families purchase homes.

Guest: **Victor Gasana**, partner family/homeowner for our Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build in Spring 2001. Victor will share how home ownership has changed his life and the life of his family.

Our UU Task Force is working towards jointly sponsoring another interfaith build with other congregations in Bloomington.

## **Three Nonprofit Agencies Selected as Candidates for 25% of our Sunday Offering**



The Social Justice Funds Committee is pleased to announce the three agencies that have been selected as candidates to receive 25% of the Sunday non-pledge offering during 2007-2008.

The agencies are Martha's House, The Sycamore Land Trust Environmental Education Program and Bloomington Area Birth Services. In May, you will be receiving information about these organizations in the mail and in *Common Ground*.

At the June 3 Congregational meeting, a vote will be taken to decide who will receive our donation. Remember that only church members can vote at the Congregational Meeting.

This year we received a record nine applications. Nonprofits are struggling for funds and our \$5,000 – \$6,000 annual contribution makes a huge difference to the recipient. We are proud that our congregation designates 25% of the Sunday plate to a community non-profit organization.

--Joan Caulton and Carol Parks co-chairs

John Woodcock, Stephanie Estell, Bob Taylor and Jennifer Blankenship

## **Our Folks...**

Congratulations... to Margaret Strong, who is retiring this spring after 48 years of teaching music.

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

### **The Myth of the Urban Growth Machine--**

Eben Fodor, author of *Better Not Bigger: How to Take Control of Urban Growth and Improve Your Community*, will speak Thursday, April 19th, from 7 to 9 pm at the Monroe County Public Library Auditorium. Sponsored the UU Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change, the Center for Sustainable Living, and others. Info: [www.fodorandassociates.com](http://www.fodorandassociates.com).

### **"Mystery of Love" Event!** Monday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Harmony School.

Local favorites Camilla Williams and Boris Bazala are featured in "love and friendship." The event is free and sponsored by Namaste' Sacred Arts and the Community Justice and Mediation Center.

**Deathcare Industry Events** Mark Harris, author of "Grave Matters," will make a presentation about the deathcare industry in America. Friday, April 27, 5:30-6:30pm book signing near Howard's Bookstore.

Saturday, April 28, 10am-12n, St. Thomas Lutheran Church. Iris Kiesling 332-5224

**Sylvia McNair to Give Benefit for Shalom** On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, Sylvia McNair will perform at 3:00 PM at First United Methodist Church. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Shalom Community Center. Tickets available at First United Methodist or Bloomingsfoods East.

### **Child Abuse Prevention Vigil Apr 26**

A candlelight vigil will be held April 26 at 6:00 p.m. beginning at the Sample Gates and marching to the Courthouse Square, to remember children who have been lost as a result of abuse or neglect in Indiana.

## **Team Ministry**

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

## **Ministers' Schedules**

Rev. Macklin's regular day off is Tuesday.

Office hours: M, W, Th, F

Her mobile number is 322-0205.

[macklin@uubloomington.org](mailto:macklin@uubloomington.org)

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

Office hours: M, T, F

His mobile number is 360-1779.

[breeden@uubloomington.org](mailto:breeden@uubloomington.org)

## **Lunch with a Minister**

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

## Attendance Figures

**Sun, Apr 8**, 9:00: 130, 11:15: 294, Tot: 424

Religious Ed.: n/a

**Sun, Apr 15**, 9:00: n/a, 11:15: 187, Tot: n/a

Religious Ed.: n/a

## Sunday Offering Figures

*Sun, Apr 8* non-pledge offering: \$855

*Sun, Apr 15* non-pledge offering: \$437

Total to Stepping Stones Inc: \$323

## Faith in Action Forums

Take place in the Library on Sunday, 10:15-11:30 a.m. (Contact Jackie Hall, [jmhall@indiana.edu](mailto:jmhall@indiana.edu), to schedule a forum.) Forum topics are listed in *The Prologue* as scheduled. See Page 6.

## UU Board of Directors

Jason Hill, President, [pres@uubloomington.org](mailto:pres@uubloomington.org)

Jan Skinner, Vice President, [vicepres@uubloomington.org](mailto:vicepres@uubloomington.org)

Lloyd Orr, Treasurer, [treasurer@uubloomington.org](mailto:treasurer@uubloomington.org)

Dorothy Sowell, Secretary, [secretary@uubloomington.org](mailto:secretary@uubloomington.org)

Chris Clothier, Past President, [pastpres@uubloomington.org](mailto:pastpres@uubloomington.org)

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

## Ministers and Staff

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The Rev. Bill Breeden, [breeden@uubloomington.org](mailto:breeden@uubloomington.org)

Acting Dir. of Religious Education: Cindy Port, [dre@uubloomington.org](mailto:dre@uubloomington.org)

Acting Minister of Religious Education: The Rev. Emily Manvel Leite, [mre@uubloomington.org](mailto:mre@uubloomington.org)

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Childcare Coordinator: Adrienne Summerlot

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Pianist: Sally Todd, [pianist@uubloomington.org](mailto:pianist@uubloomington.org)

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Cleaning Services: Commercial Cleaners, Inc.