

The Prologue

Monday, December 20, 2010

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Congregation founded 1949
GLBTQ Welcoming Congregation since 1995
Green Sanctuary since 2007



Seeking the Spirit Building Community
Changing the World



Photo: John Woodcock



*Happy Holidays &
Many Blessings in the
New Year*

from your ministers and staff

Tuesday, December 21, 2010 6:30 p.m.

Solstice Celebration for All Ages

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, and Reverend Bill Breeden with the UU Children's Choir and members of Earth Kin

Come share in a quiet, reflective service celebrating the returning sun. We will enjoy music provided by the Children's Choir (directed by Jill Courtney) and will join together in a candlelit spiral procession as we reconnect with the earth and its natural cycles.

Friday, December 24, 2010

Away in a Manger 4:00 p.m. Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Interactive Nativity worship designed for families with young children, yet welcoming to all ages.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

**Gloria: The Unitarian Universalist Choir and Orchestra
Reverend Macklin, Reverend Breeden, and Reverend Leite**

Join us for this special Christmas Eve celebration. We will recognize the many celebrations of light which take place during this time, and we will hear the gospel readings that herald the narrative of Christmas Eve. Our Choir, directed by Susan Swaney, will offer special music for this service, including movements from Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Traditional candle-lighting and singing of "Silent Night" will conclude the evening.

Meditative Service 9:00 p.m. Reverend Bill Breeden

A service of sharing Christmas joys and memories in an informal style. Candle lighting and "Silent Night" will be included.

Sunday, December 26, 2010 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

'Tis a Gift to Be Simple

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Bill Breeden

Lao Tzu said, "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." In this worship service we will embrace the gift of simplicity and slow down amidst the holiday. Reverend Breeden and Reverend Macklin will offer reflections and meditation as we pause to a medium to slow pace for worship, albeit the Children's Moment may allow us to imbibe in a bit of 12 Days of Christmas jocularly. Special guest musicians will be a part of this worship service.

Sunday, January 2, 2011 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

**A Red and Blue Day
Reverend Bill Breeden**

In native mythology, a red and blue day is a day of ending and beginning. It is a special day. This service will conclude with a ceremonial burning of all we wish to leave behind.

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From the Ministers

The last weeks of the year have finally arrived with a better than even chance of a white Christmas. This holiday season has included both joys and sorrows, much like every other season of our lives. To be sure, it is a time of laughter and celebration, but for some it is also a time of loneliness and loss. Whatever the source of the tears, be it happiness or be it sadness, we draw a circle around all of you as we approach the dawning of a new year.

Even though the church office will be closed the week following Christmas, we are always available if you are in need of a minister. May each of you know the warmth of giving and receiving, and may you be loved and be loving in this winter season.

At the closing of this year, we give thanks for the wonderful generosity you have shown for those less fortunate. That generosity has touched the lives of many throughout our local community and in nations around the world. It has also touched the life of this congregation.

It really holds true that the more we give the more we receive. That spirit of generosity was evident in the December 12th congregational meeting when we voted to launch our Green Spaces Capital Campaign, including the commitment of 5% of all monies raised to social justice. (See Page 5.) Thank you for being who you are.

Peace,

Mary Ann and Bill

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Bill Breeden



Away in a Manger Christmas Pageant December 24, 4:00 pm

Our tradition on Christmas Eve is to offer a special family worship service entitled "Away in the Manger," led by Reverend Mary Ann Macklin. This worship is an interactive Christmas Pageant targeted to families with young children and to those young at heart. This service will take place in Fellowship Hall at 4pm on Friday December 24, 2010. There will be a few chairs set up but we will invite folks to sit on the floor to create a more relaxed and informal atmosphere. Children are also welcome to attend our more formal Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm but there will not be childcare available during the 7:00 p.m. service.



What to bring:

- a stuffed animal or doll to put in the manger and share with the babies and other children
- soft blankets, pillows or floor chairs
- a plate of cookies to share
- If your budget permits - a pair of new mittens or hats or food for a charity

We ask certain age groups to come dressed for parts and to become familiar with a few lines. These are just suggestions, if your child feels called to play a certain role assigned to a different age group that is fine!

0- 3 year olds - Angels - Wear halos (tin foil twisted till it fits around your head will do) and whatever else you feel makes you angelic. Practice saying "Oh what a wonderful child!" and "Peace to all people on earth!"

4 - 5 year olds - Shepherds - Wear shepherd hats (towel on head and tied with some type of rope or tie) and whatever else would keep you warm if you were a shepherd. Practice saying, "Let's go look for that baby" and "Oh, what a beautiful child!"

6 - 8 year olds - Wise Ones. Wear crowns and other wise-one like garb. Practice saying, "Look at that amazing star! It must be shining for something very special!" And "This child will be our teacher."

During the pageant, the shepherds will share dried fruit as a small snack. We need innkeepers to pass out programs and help serve fruits and cookies. Please let me know if an older child, youth or adult in your family can help as an innkeeper.

Additional Holiday Events

Dec. 21, 6:30pm, Winter Solstice Celebration for All Ages, Rev. Emily Manvel Leite and Children's Choir, childcare for youngest children available

Dec. 24, 4pm "Away in a Manger" Christmas Eve Service, Reverend Macklin

Dec. 24, 7pm traditional Christmas Eve Service, Rev. Macklin and Rev. Breeden (children welcome, no childcare available)

Dec. 24, 9pm Meditative service, Rev. Breeden (sharing memories and meanings of Christmas)

Dec. 26, 9:15a and 11:15a New Year Vacation Religious Education: Time Capsule 2011 – the next Family Worship will be our Soul Food Dinner on Weds, Feb. 2nd in celebration of African American History Month!

INTERSESSION 2011 – January

"Stories of the Bible," Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

During the five Sundays of January, children choose from interest-based multi-age classes in Religious Education. We are still looking for volunteers with interests in crafts or outdoors who can help with this exciting and fun short-term program! We also need preschool teachers who can help just during January with their normal preschool class. If your child in grade K-8 did not make her or his choices for Intersession during registration in August, now is the time to do so! The most popular choices are filling up quickly and PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS SOON. Many 11:15 students have not registered yet. Assuming we have enough volunteers, the choices will be Crafts, Cooking and Drama. Children can email or write down their top choices in order, or they may ask to be in a class with a particular friend or sibling. Of course everyone, including visitors and newcomers, is always welcome to attend an RE class, including during the month of January! --Cindy Port, Director of Religious Education, dre@ubloomington.org



Congregation Approves Green Spaces Capital Campaign

A giant thank you to all who braved the wintry weather to attend the December 12 Congregational Meeting. We are thrilled to announce that the congregation voted unanimously to launch the Green Spaces Capital Campaign! It will be held in conjunction with the annual Stewardship Campaign in April. Donors will have three years to pay their capital campaign pledges.

In addition, the congregation voted that 5% of all money raised go toward our Social Justice Fund.

Like most home improvement projects, Green Spaces has grown, but it makes economic sense to complete major projects such as parking lot paving and drainage now, considering our entire property as a functional whole.

The most inclusive cost estimate for everything (drainage, parking, traffic flow, courtyard, windows, carpets, entries, lighting, sound and general repairs, plus Building Maintenance Fund, Future Growth Fund and 5% for social justice) is close to one million dollars.

We can raise \$1,000,000. In 1997 with only 300 members and a budget of \$167,000 our capital campaign raised \$725,000. Today we have over 450 members and an annual budget of almost \$500,000--nearly triple that of 1997. One million dollars is within our reach.

We will spend only the money we raise through the capital campaign. We will not increase our mortgage for Green Spaces. We will look to volunteers to reduce costs by assisting with planting, painting and installing.

It's time to Renew, Reinvest and Reach Out! Together, we can secure a fiscally sound, beautiful, welcoming, accessible, and environmentally responsible future for our church so that we can reach out to others.

Women's Alliance Meets January 6

The UU Women's Alliance will meet on Thursday, January 6. Our featured speaker, Abby Gitlitz, will present a program on "The Whimsy of Glass". The meeting begins with a brown bag luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our hosts, Diane Gregory and Lee Strickholm, will provide beverages and dessert. Guests are always welcome. Info, Lois Holl, loisholl8@yahoo.com

UU Men Meet Every 3 Weeks

The UU Men's Group meets every 3 weeks on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. on the following dates: Dec 21, Jan 11, Feb 1, Feb 22, Mar 15. Meeting location varies: contact Chris Haynes, chaynes@indiana.edu



YRUU Meet on Sundays YRUU, (Young Religious UUs), our high school youth, meet on Sunday afternoons. Please contact Abby Gitlitz, YRUU co-facilitator for current schedule: agitlitz@hotmail.com.

Our Folks...

Our prayers and sympathy are with Ruthann Cooper, whose mother passed away last week.

Our prayers and healing thoughts are with Jonathan Hutchison, recuperating from heart surgery at Bloomington Hospital, and are also with Bob Bent, recuperating at Bell Trace pavilion.

Congratulations to Steve Krahnke, whose film *Harp Dreams* recently won the Cine Golden Eagle.



UU Children's Choir Upcoming Schedule

New singers, Kindergarten-6th grade, are always welcome!

Contact: Jill Courtney, UU Children's Choir Director: jcourtne@mccsc.edu

Tues. Dec. 21: Sing for Winter Solstice Family Service (Rehearse at 6:00pm for the 6:30 evening service).



Chalice Circles, the exciting program of small group ministry in our congregation, is looking for a few deep listeners. The focus of each Chalice Circle meeting is a topic that serves as a springboard into reflection on deeper issues of who we are and what gives our lives meaning. At the core of each session is deep listening. Questions are posed and each person responds in turn. The other participants provide the speaker with rapt attention. They don't ask questions; they don't give advice – they listen deeply.

For more information about our Chalice Circles, contact Alan Backler, 340-1323 or at abackler@aol.com

Attendance and Offering

Sun, Dec 12, 9:15: 138; 11:15: 193; RE: 120 Total: 451

Sun, Dec 19, 9:15: 141; 11:15: 213; RE: Intergen Total: 354

Sun, 12/12 non-pledge offering: \$669; Sun, 12/19 non-pledge offering: \$874;

Total to People and Animal Learning Services: \$386

Our members voted in June 2010 to give 25% of our Sunday non-pledge offerings to People & Animal Learning Services, to help with its work in our community.

End of year donations

A reminder that if you wish to make a contribution on your pledge before December 31, it would be helpful if we received it by December 26, 2010. Church office hours this week: 12/21 9-4; 12/22 1-4; 12/23 9-4. It's also fine to place your pledge checks in the offering basket during services on December 24 or December 26. **Many, many thanks to you all for your generous support of our congregation!** Questions, Carol Marks, Church Administrator, admin@uubloomington.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

DRIVER WANTED. Need driver w/ 4 wheel drive vehicle to take me to Nashville in wintry weather to visit husband in nursing home, once a week, mid-day. Will pay for time and gas. Contact Kathie, k14@comcast.net

CHILD'S COAT LOST DECEMBER 19. Aidan Wright's winter coat, blue and back in color, Size 7, was taken by mistake after services on December 19, and a similar coat, Size 5-6, was left behind. Please call Mary Wright at 317-376-2160 or wribrima1@comcast.net if you have Aidan's coat!

UU BED AND BREAKFAST DIRECTORY. UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their homes to like-minded people. For more information, visit www.UUreHome.com or write to info@uurehome.com, UureHome.com, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806, 828-281-3253, (Not a free service. –Ed.)

UUs Changing the World

Feed Our Hungry Neighbors

Next Bounty-Full Sunday is January 2. Current needs at Monroe County United Ministries: canned meats: chicken, salmon, stew; canned vegetables: tomatoes, beets, carrots, greens, potatoes; crackers, especially saltines; instant potatoes and other potato sides; desserts: baking mixes, cookies. MCUM can also use paper grocery bags for the food pantry.

Earth Care Sponsors Weatherizing Event on Monday, January 17

Get help weatherizing and honor Dr. King at Earth Care's Climate Justice Event. Meet at Congregation Beth Shalom, 3750 E. 3rd St., 12:30 PM, Jan. 17th. Want to cut your energy bills? Heal the world? Jump-start the Task of the Month projects? Here's your chance. Teams of three plus a trained leader will visit their three homes to: install water heater blankets, insulate pipes, weatherize windows and doors, and seal exterior cracks and holes Cost: the cost of supplies; (approx. \$25 for the water heater blanket, and a \$20 contribution for the rest). Not manageable? Contribute what you can. Preregistration recommended: Visit the GSTF Coffee Table, download the form from www.earthcareindiana.org or request one from info@earthcareindiana.com. Want to lead a team? Please let us know – your help is welcome. (Heads up: Once you know how to do this, Earth Care will ask you to help one additional person accomplish these tasks during the 40 days following MLK Day or to make a financial contribution to help with the same.)

Through our scientific and technological genius, we have made of this world a neighborhood and yet we have not had the ethical commitment to make of it a brotherhood. But somehow, and in some way, we have got to do this. --Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Community Screening of The Mormon Proposition, Monday, January 10

with Panel/Q&A-- FREE and Open to the Public! 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. in our Meeting Room. Bloomington PRIDE and our Rainbow Rights Task Force present **8: The Mormon Proposition** (USA 2010, Dir. Cowan/Greenstreet, 80-minute documentary, Rated R for some language/sexual references). Through never-before-seen documents, recordings and interviews, 8: THE MORMON PROPOSITION looks at how the Mormon Church influenced the 2008 California ballot initiative outlawing gay marriage and tracks their efforts to halt other pieces of historic LGBT legislation. This may be a particularly important film to view and discuss with the way elections turned out this year. We can certainly expect another effort to narrowly define marriage in the Indiana Constitution. It is important to understand how our opponents organize and finance their efforts. –Phil Cooper

The Wait is Over: A Plan for Energy-Saving Action

Join Green Sanctuary Task Force (GSTF) for the Task of the Month Program throughout 2011. Details will be regularly posted at <http://www.uubloomington.org/invl/justice/energyactionplan.php> Each month, information and assistance will be offered to achieve an energy-conserving project for your household. As pioneers of this program, we along with other Earth Care congregations can set the bar with high participation for more faith-based communities to follow suit.

Visit the GSTF coffee table between Sunday services to sign-up and be entered in a drawing for a water heater cover (for January's task). Lists will be available for those who need help or who can help others with a task. Come see how EVERYONE can get involved including renters and those who have already completed the projects. Let 2011 be your year of realizing a more energy-efficient existence as a steward of this beautiful planet! For more info, see December's Social Justice bulletin board or go to <http://earthcareindiana.org/node/119> Questions? Contact Marcia Veldman at 812-988-4881.

UUs Changing the World, continued

Our Gifts to Monroe County United Ministries During 2010

For Monroe County United Ministries during 2010, our congregation:

Raised \$1068.55 from the sale of our McHats, McMufflers, and McOthers

Delivered 89 Holiday Food Baskets (7,921 lbs of food)

Delivered 2,104 lbs. of food from Bounty Full Sundays.

Total pounds for the year: 10,025

For the record, the total pounds from holiday baskets in the last several years:

2010 7,921 pounds

2009 6,080 pounds

2008 7,600 pounds

Thank you for all your help! –Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force

Community Connections: Our faith in action in the community

Volunteers Needed for Middle Way House

Because of the financial crisis, Middle Way House has been forced to reduce its workforce, and has asked members of the Unitarian Universalist Church to help them fill this gap. Middle Way House provides emergency shelter and many other services for women and children affected by domestic violence. Volunteers are needed from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday to answer the phone and door. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for a shift once a week or once a month with a friend or spouse. Training will be provided. For more information contact Lois Holl, Women's Alliance President, loisholl8@yahoo.com, or call Debra Morrow, Middle Way House Community Service Coordinator, 812-337-4510.

Help Middle Way House WIN \$250,000!

Middle Way House has a chance to win funding through the Pepsi Challenge, and is asking for your vote online. Please log on and vote for Middle Way House every day in December (or at least as many days as you are on your computer). The first time is a little complicated to sign-in but return visits are a snap.

Step 1: Get registered – go to www.refresheverything.com, click on "sign in" (lower left corner) and follow the various prompts to get yourself registered.

Step 2: Go to the MWH voting page by going to the empty search box in the upper right corner and type in "middle way house." Our project page begins with "Put a roof over the heads..."

Step 3: Scroll to the bottom and click on the "**vote for this idea**" button, and you're all done.

Subsequent days are much easier. Simply go to www.refresheverything.com/midwayhouse and sign in. Scroll to the bottom and click on the "**vote for this idea**" button. **You can also text "104741" to Pepsi (73774) (standard text messaging rates apply).**

The more people voting for Middle Way, the greater the chance they have of receiving this much-needed grant. Thank you! -- Nancy Richman, VP, MWH Board of Directors, nrichman618@gmail.com



Fellowship Dinner Reminder

The January dinner fellowship potluck dinner assignments will be made by next week. If you want to be included, contact Dixie at deejaywelch@gmail.com

Bazaar Books - Thanks!



A belated thank-you to everyone who contributed books to the Bazaar book sale. We were starting from scratch this year - no backlog at all - and you all contributed enough books to bring in over \$1350. I honestly think that if the weather had been better, we might have done as well as last year because we had lots of wonderful books left over. We've contributed those to the Monroe County Public Library for their ongoing book sales to help them keep full library services going in our community. So if you missed out on some wonderful books, go the MCPL sales, buy and read, then save them for our UU book sale next year. How's that for recycling! Thanks again, and also to our wonderful volunteers. - Kate Cruikshank

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' Availability

Rev. Macklin's regular day off is Tuesday. On call M, W, F afternoons, and Thursdays
macklin@uubloomington.org, mobile: 812-322-0205

Rev. Breeden's regular day off is Thursday. On call M, T, W, F
breeden@uubloomington.org, mobile: 812-360-1779

Membership Coordinator Availability

Membership Coordinator Judy Bennett will be available at church in the meditation room (207b) on Thursdays 9am-11am. If you have questions please come by. Her email is memcoord@uubloomington.org.

Irregular Office Hours During the Holidays

Between December 23 and January 2, our ministers and some members of our staff may be in the office occasionally, but will not keep regular office hours. Regular office hours will resume on January 3, 2011, at which time email and phone messages will be attended to. In case of a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Reverend Macklin at 812-322-0205 or Reverend Breeden at 812-360-1779.

www.uubloomington.org

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The Prologue

Unitarian Universalist Church of
Bloomington
2120 N. Fee Lane
Bloomington, IN 47408-1646

812-332-3695
www.uubloomington.org
The Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, Minister
The Rev. Bill Breeden, Minister

December 20, 2010
Return Service Requested

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12/23/10	7:00 PM	UU Choir Rehearsal
12/24/10	4:00 PM	Away in a Manger Service
	7:00 PM	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
	9:00 PM	Meditative Christmas Eve Service
12/26/10		Sunday Services at 9:15 and 11:15
01/02/11		Sunday Services at 9:15 and 11:15
	12:45 PM	Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change
	1:00 PM	Chalice Circle - Judy Bennett
01/03/11	10:00 AM	Prologue Deadline
	7:30 PM	Green Spaces Initiative Committee
01/04/11	6:45 PM	Bloomington Chamber Singers Rehearsal
01/05/11	3:00 PM	Life Stories Writing Group
01/06/11	11:30 AM	Women's Alliance
	6:30 PM	Adult Religious Education Committee
	7:00 PM	Chalice Circle - Jeannette Miller
	7:00 PM	UU Choir Rehearsal
01/07/11	10:30 AM	Life Stories Writing Group
	12:00 PM	UU Staff Meeting