



# THE LIGHTED CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, WEST LAFAYETTE INDIANA SEPTEMBER 2009

## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

*Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. Childcare Available.*

### SEPTEMBER 6

**Topic "Our Labor of Love"**

**Worship Leaders:**

**Ellen Gruenbaum and  
Fritz Smith**

Pianist: Shellie Johnson  
Sound: Mike Marsh

### SEPTEMBER 13

**"Ingathering and Water  
Communion"**

**Worship Leader:**

**Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker**

Worship Associate: TBA

Pianist: Shellie Johnson  
Sound: Sharon McKnight

Join as we once again begin a new church year with an Ingathering and Water Communion Service. Bring water from your journeys – literal, figurative and spiritual, to blend together in the water of community. We will also welcome new members. The UU Choir and the UU House Band will grace us with music. Don't forget your water!

***Greeters, Newcomers Table, and  
Coffee Ministry Volunteers  
listed on page 8.***

### SEPTEMBER 20

**"Go In Love, Our Hearts  
Go With You"**

**Worship Leader:**

**Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker**

Worship Associate: TBA

Pianist: Shellie Johnson  
Sound: Carl Seese

Each week as our children leave for their Religious Education classes, we sing them on their way with these words of benediction. Religious Education of both children and adults has been a cornerstone of our tradition. On this Sunday we will hear more about why it is so very important.

### SEPTEMBER 27

**"The Quality of Mercy: Thoughts  
on Health Care and Discourse"**

**Worship Leader:**

**Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker**

Worship Associate: TBA

Pianist: Kaye McSpadden  
Sound: Kevin Sondgeroth

The level of discourse about health care has reached chilling low points. The conversation is no longer just about health care, but about how we will be as a people and a nation. This is the health care sermon Rev. Walker promised last month.

## INTERIM MUSINGS

Welcome back to another exciting church year! I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer and are ready to roll up your sleeves as we, together, grow and nourish this beloved community. I know I am ready.

It's hard to believe, in some ways, that the beginning of this new church year marks the midpoint of our interim ministry together. That a year from now I will be elsewhere and you will be beginning a new ministry with your newly called settled minister. It's also very exciting.

In the meantime there's still lots of interim and transition work to do. There will, of course, be lots of worship, social activities, meetings, religious education, friendships to form, work for justice, new members to welcome, babies to dedicate, and losses to grieve - the day to day work of congregational life. There will also be the intentional focus on the five developmental goals of interim ministry. In case they are a bit foggy, here they are:

### **The Five Developmental Goals of Interim Ministry**

- Claiming and honoring the past and healing griefs and conflicts. Coming to terms with history.
- Illuminating the congregation's unique identity, its strengths, its needs, and its challenges. Discovering a new identity.
- Clarifying the multiple dimensions of leadership, both ordained and lay, and navigating the shifts in leadership that accompany times of transition. Allowing leadership to emerge.
- Renewing connections with available resources within and beyond the UUA.
- Enabling the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership and engage its future with anticipation and zest. Committing to new directions in ministry.

We will work towards these goals together in numerous ways over the course of the year. In the end we will say farewell to each other and you, as a congregation, will embark on the next step of your journey, stronger and ready to embrace a new ministry.

Did I leave something out? I think I did. I left out the part that we will have lots of fun and joy in the process. Building strong healthy beloved community is a joyous process and I am so glad to be back with you. It's a very exciting time.

*Blessings, Marlene*

## SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

### **September Theme: Immigration and Changing Demographics**

*Sunday Morning Forum meets at 9:00 a.m. in Room 101/103. Please use the back entrance to the building by the red mailbox nearest the offices (south side of the building near the playground). Everyone is welcome! Forum Coordinators are Professors Jim Anderson and R. Mark French*

**September 6:** *Changing Demographics of the Aging Population* with Joe Hemmersbach, Director of Aging & In-Home Services at Area IV Agency on Aging & Community Action Programs

**September 13:** *LUM's Campaign for the Future* with Joe Micon, Executive Director of Lafayette Urban Ministry

**September 20:** TBA

**September 27:** *Hate Crimes*; Speaker TBA

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Board President

Eric Thiel

### Past President

Fritz Smith

### Future President

Mary Finley

### Treasurer

Janice Kritchevsky

### Assistant Treasurer

Kirsten Reynolds

### Secretary

Elizabeth Garretson

### Trustee

Marty Becker

### Trustee

Ellen Gruenbaum

### Trustee

Gary Mueller

## STAFF

### Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

### Director of Religious Education:

Jeffrey Bauer

### Administrative Assistant:

Karin Bergman

### Choir Director:

Denise Gilliland

### Pianist:

Shellie Johnson

**Office Hours: Monday -Friday,  
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.,**

**lunch variable. Please call ahead  
for appointments.**

### Lighted Chalice Advisory Team:

Karin Bergman, Christine Schertz,  
Janice Thiel, Rev. Marlene Walker

### Webspinner: Eric Thiel

[uucwebspinner@yahoo.com](mailto:uucwebspinner@yahoo.com)

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Web page: <http://uulafayette.org>

### October 2009 Newsletter

**Deadline: Tuesday,  
September 15, 5:00 p.m.**

**E-mail to [uuc@uulafayette.org](mailto:uuc@uulafayette.org)  
with "Newsletter" in subject  
box or place items in  
Newsletter mailbox, Rm. 106**

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT: AUGUST MEETING

The UU Board met on August 18, with all present and accounted for, including our Minister. The first major focus at this meeting was our financial situation, with reports from John Carlson, who has been doing the bookkeeping, and Janice Kritchevsky, the Treasurer, about the shortfall in our income over the course of the year.

The effects of the current recession and some internal considerations such as revenue from the collection plate and from fundraisers, as well as a more-than-usual lag in pledge donations, were all considered. There are also concerns about some committees going over their budget, and how spending is authorized. As a way of beginning to address this, we will get copies of the current budget to all committee heads, so that they know where they stand. The church has some financial reserves to draw on, but we will need to both hew closely to the next budget and have a really good response to this fall's pledge drive to meet our goals and continue to progress.

The Minister reported back from her vacation, and will be passing along to the congregation some of the material she has gone through on Adaptive Leadership. The Director of Religious Education reported an increase in average attendance and noted that more volunteers are needed as RE teachers for the upcoming year.

The need for volunteers extends to other areas as well, with the Endowment Board losing its chair due to injuries (not suffered during one of the meetings, we should note), a vacancy for the Finance Committee, and

vacancies on the Worship Committee. The chair of the Building Committee (Grounds) has also stepped down. There are many opportunities here to help out our church; get with it, folks! Hopefully by the end of the *Program Council Committee and Interest Group Fair on September 13, (see below)* we will have all of these vacancies filled.

The Membership Committee has completed work on revisions to the Membership section of the Bylaws, and the Board will be presenting these to the congregation soon for consideration. Later, perhaps at the December Congregational Meeting, the congregation will be asked for a final vote on these revisions.

Other matters discussed were football parking for Purdue home games and how those revenues will be distributed, budget requests which were passed on to the Finance Committee, and a proposed application for a grant that is still being formulated.

The Board also met in Executive Session to discuss a matter of membership status; this will be taken up again for final disposition at the September Board Meeting.

Thanks to all the Board members for their work and willingness to continue meeting during the summer lull. We had a Board Retreat, or, as I prefer to call it, a Strategic Withdrawal, on August 28 and 29 to work on our agenda for the coming year and energize ourselves to energize you to energize our church in the months ahead.

*Eric Thiel,  
Board President*

## UU CHURCH COMMITTEE & INTEREST GROUP FAIR, SEPT. 13

### *Find your niche and get involved –There's a place at UU for U!*

Don't miss this opportunity to find out more about the committees and groups that contribute to the vibrant sense of community at UU. After the Sunday worship service on Sept. 13 you will have the opportunity to visit with group representatives, ask questions, and sample the delicious snacks and treats that the various committees and groups will have available at their tables. The annual fair is always a fun opportunity for people to connect, and it serves several purposes:

- Committee and interest group members can share with others news about their programs, upcoming projects or special events
- It's a great way for newcomers to meet and get to know many people who are active in the life of the church
- BUT MOSTLY... you will have the opportunity to join a group yourself! You don't have to be an expert, or even a member to join. Everyone is welcome!

There are many programs and activities that could not happen without dedicated volunteers, and new members are always valued for the fresh ideas, vitality, and energy they bring to the group. You'll find that working with others toward common goals is a good way to make new friends, develop a satisfying sense of purpose and accomplishment, and feel a more integral part of the UUC community. If you aren't able to make it to this event, you can learn more about a committee or join a group at any time during the year by simply contacting the committee(s) in which you are interested. The UUC Administrative Assistant, Karin Bergman, can provide you with contact information for any of the UUC groups. Karin can be reached at [uuc@uulafayette.org](mailto:uuc@uulafayette.org) or 743-8812.

***When you get involved, you make friends, make a place for yourself,  
and make a difference!***

*Denise Wilson, Connections Committee Chairperson*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS: DECIPHERS FROM THE DRE

How does the end of summer sound? A *Cheer* for new friends, new classes, new teachers, new potential? A *Sigh* for the end of sleeping in and swimming in the sun? A *Hmmm* for the thoughts and reflections of what you have done and learned this summer? A mixture? Your own unique sound?

Part of our summer ended with a *Whoosh* of water as our Car Wash raised \$170 for the *Heifer Project*, an international organization that helps people through training and sustainable gifts.. Thank you to Barny Dunning, Gary Mueller, Greg Reynolds, Mark VanMeeter and many others both young and old. We succeeded in our goal of washing more cars than kids and raising money for *Heifer*. It was decided to give the gift as two *Flocks of Hope* (chicks, ducklings and goslings) and one *Basket of Hope* (chicks and rabbits).

Our Children's Chapel: Service Sunday went great. We talked, wrote letters to soldiers, created art (art left behind is displayed on the bulletin board), decided what to do with the money we raised for Heifer, helped around church (weeded the playground) and played on the playground (of course).

Another part of our summer is ending with a big THANK YOU to all of the musicians, members, parents,

friends and kids that made this summer's program of MUUSIC Camp great: *Jason Dufair, Martha Gipson, Meg Howlett, Sharon McKnight, Kaye McSpadden, Beverly Seese, Denise Wilson & Michael Lewis, Rosemary Leary, Greg Reynolds, Christine Reynolds, Todd Barton, Kathy Coder, Beth Garretson, Beth Misner, Amy French, Susannah Hall-Justice- and the children and youth that made it fun!* Thank you everyone - I hope your summer was grand!

We are still looking for more teachers for our classes (especially our K-2 and 6-8 classes). We are also looking for more people who are interested in being Nursery Assistants or substitutes in the Nursery.

The Hunger Hike is coming up (September 20). We would like to form a group –and not just of our youth. This is a fun opportunity to raise money with our youth. And no... you don't need to walk at their speed to help! Please contact me if you are interested.

**September 6 MUUSIC Camp**  
**September 13 In-gathering Multigenerational Service**  
**September 20 Religious Education School Year begins**  
**September 27 normal Religious Education classes**

*Jeffrey Bauer,*  
*DRE*

## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Adult Religious Education Committee has three confirmed courses presently scheduled this quarter:

The first is *Paganism 101*, which has already been publicized and has generated great interest. Scheduled to begin in September, two sessions will take place at the Congregational Retreat held at Ross Hills on October 2-4, 2009 (see Retreat Registration insert).

The second offering is scheduled to begin at the retreat. It is called *Spirit in Practice* and is a **Tapestry of Faith** program for adults, developed by the UUA. Ten sessions long, participants are offered the opportunity to define, explore, and develop spiritual practice in eight "spheres." The retreat workshop will provide an introduction to the content and concepts of the program. More information and a sign-up sheet will be available at the Adult R.E. table at the **Annual Program Council Committee Fair held in the Fellowship Hall after service on September 13th, 2009.**

The third confirmed course is the updated *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*. It is presented in two parts: "IN ANCIENT TIMES," a five week session, introduces participants to ancient Goddesses, weaving their stories together with major concerns of women today; and "ON THE

**THRESHOLD,"** the six-session continuation of the course, continues our journey into the past to reclaim the stories of powerful women to be found in ancient Judaism and in early Christianity (<http://www.uuwr.org/cakes.htm>). This has been a very popular course in the past, as it focuses on women's issues in a patriarchal society. This course is scheduled to begin in January 2010. More information will be available at the R.E. table at the committee fair.

The Adult Religious Education Committee plans to offer at least one other course (possibly designed by one of our members!) prior to Summer 2010. We also plan to offer opportunities for small discussion groups focusing on popular topics, as well as some "how-to" classes, in the coming months. If you are interested in learning more or contributing to the Religious Education Program, please visit the R.E. table at the committee fair and/or attend a meeting with committee members at the church retreat.

In the spirit of encouraging spiritual growth through the "free and responsible search for truth and meaning,"

*Elizabeth Garretson,*  
*Adult R.E. Committee Chair*

COMMITTEE AND GROUP NEWS  
UPDATE FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE:



**Searching for  
"the best minister for  
this church at this time"**

It has been an active, interesting time for the Ministerial Search Committee and many members & friends of our church. We successfully engaged in a congregational survey (with 140 respondents!), met with Art Hillman, the Compensation Consultant from the UU Heartland District and had our first "cottage meeting" to open more discussion about how to find "the best minister for this congregation at this time."

**What Have We Learned So Far?**

**From the survey and cottage meeting:**

- we heard from a good cross section of our congregation by age, gender, income and beliefs

- we have a diversity of beliefs and faith traditions that help shape who we are - thus we are interested in a minister with the depth and rigor to join us in our journey

- we are favorable toward growth - especially to share our liberal religious community with others.....and to assure our financial stability

- we are a beacon in the community regarding social justice issues and we can do more to focus our efforts & encourage participation

- we wish to focus on improving our youth programs & youth RE, adult RE and continue our efforts to handle conflict in a healthy manner through engraining the Covenant of Right Relations in our daily church lives

- we consistently stated that financial stability and stewardship require our utmost attention now and for the long term

- we identified crucial characteristics and enthusiasms we seek in a new minister: Leadership, Preaching & Worship; the predominant style preferred is Visionary.

- other qualities that are important in our new minister (we admitted we couldn't "have it all") were outlined as Empathy, Professionally Competent and Strong Moral & Ethical Character

- we also said we would like more conversation and understanding about what it would mean to call a transgender minister or one who is politically conservative

- many voices said the worst mistake a new minister could make was to come in with a pre-set agenda and/or to make changes without first getting to know the congregation's needs and wishes

As a tool for the congregation's search for a new minister and for prospective candidates, the survey does an excellent job of describing this congregation at this time.....and what we seek in our new minister! Exactly the goal we needed to achieve with the survey. Thank you!

**From our discussion with Art Hillman we learned:**

How to look at our congregation, our pledge drive, our budget and what we can offer to entice ministers who may be interested in coming to serve our church. He did not tell us "do this!", but instead, offered ways in which we should look at and present our congregation, as well as areas in which we could improve. He suggested that a balance between spiritual and humanist offerings was important - that we need to look out at the horizon.

**Art's Observations About Us – Current Trends?**

- Membership shows a nice arc of growth. We have a history of growing whenever we move to a larger meeting place. Our current building should allow new growth. He told us that ministers look for opportunities for growth; we have that in spades.

- RE doesn't seem to be growing as much as we'd like. (Art told us that the Mormons assign a member to new families for about 6 weeks to help them get integrated.)

**What Are the Trends in Finance?**

- Just 7-8% of members donate 20% of the money that makes up the annual budget. This raised a red flag for Art - we are on precarious ground. The loss of just one or two pledge units would cause the church great financial hardship. We should work hard to spread the budgetary load farther.

- The Stewardship Committee has focused on education, suggesting that those who can, pledge 5% of their income to the church. This resulted in an increase of pledges from the middle range. Our median pledge is \$500. The UUA recommends that the median be \$1600 (among all geo-indices).

- We have had two very successful Capital Campaigns which probably has affected the amounts pledged in subsequent years.

# UPDATE FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE (CONT'D.):

## MINISTERIAL SEARCH CONT'D.

Art stated that we need to "build our brand" to increase both external and internal appreciation. He also recommended a comprehensive approach; we need a matter-of-fact discussion of money, which still seems to be taboo in this congregation.

The negotiations with a potential new minister will consist of how to divide up the salary/housing and benefit amounts. The total will already be in the budget, as well as in our packet. There will likely be 20-30 congregations looking for new ministers, so we must be competitive. There are 1 or 2 large congregations looking, which may mean that more ministers will be searching.

Art gave us a document from the UUA with recommended pay levels for our geo-index. . The mid-range number will attract someone with at least 5 years' experience in a successful congregation; the maximum number is necessary to bring in a "star" minister. For our size congregation to attract a minister with some experience, we should offer \$64,000 for salary and housing. Luckily, we are close - the current number in the budget is \$62,400. Benefits are recommended to be as high as 45 % of S/H; we are currently budgeted around 41%.

Our pledge drive will begin soon. We have much work in front of us to prepare to attract the minister we want to call.

Have some comments, questions or ideas? Feel free to contact anyone on the *Ministerial Search Committee: Barny Dunning, Gary Fowler, Cindy Gerlach, Bill Kannel, Joan Marshall, Suzan Windnagel, Noemi Ybarra.*

*Noemi Ybarra, Secretary,  
Ministerial Search Committee*



## 2009 CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

### DEMOGRAPHICS

1. **Affiliation - (135 respondents)**  
**Members - 84%**  
**Friends - 16%**
2. **Length of time associated with our UUC (135 respondents)**

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Less than 1 yr  | 6%         |
| 1-2 yrs         | 15%        |
| 3-5 yrs         | 17%        |
| <b>6-10 yrs</b> | <b>21%</b> |
| 11-15 yrs       | 14%        |
| 16-20 yrs       | 13%        |
| 21+ yrs         | 14%        |
3. **39% have been Unitarian Universalist more than 15 yrs. (126 respondents)**
4. **65% live 5 or fewer miles from the church (132 respondents)**
5. **Age range of respondents (133 respondents)**

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| 18 or under      | 2%         |
| 19-29 yrs        | 5%         |
| 30-39 yrs        | 12%        |
| 40-49 yrs        | 18%        |
| <b>50-59 yrs</b> | <b>32%</b> |
| 60-69 yrs        | 14%        |
| 70-79 yrs        | 11%        |
| 80-over yrs      | 6%         |
6. **Gender (133 respondents)**  
*Note: 59% of membership is female*  
**Female 61%**  
**Male 39%**  
**Transgender 0%**
7. **Sexual Orientation (131 respondents)**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Lesbian             | 1%         |
| Gay                 | 2%         |
| Bisexual            | 7%         |
| <b>Heterosexual</b> | <b>87%</b> |
8. **Marital status (132 respondents)**

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Widowed                              | 5%         |
| Single                               | 24%        |
| <b>Living with partner or spouse</b> | <b>71%</b> |
9. **Highest Level of formal education completed (132 respondents)**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Less than h.s.    | 2%         |
| H.S. or equiv.    | 3%         |
| Associates, trade | 6%         |
| Bachelor's        | 30%        |
| <b>Master's</b>   | <b>32%</b> |
| PhD/MD/JD, etc    | 27%        |

**MINISTERIAL SEARCH 2009  
CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY  
SUMMARY REPORT (CONT'D.)**

**9. Highest Level of formal education completed** (132 respondents)

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Less than h.s.    | 2%  |
| H.S. or equiv.    | 3%  |
| Associates, trade | 6%  |
| Bachelor's        | 30% |
| Master's          | 32% |
| PhD/MD/JD, etc    | 27% |

**10. Total gross family/household income before taxes**

(107 respondents)

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Less than \$20,000 | 8%  |
| \$20,001 - 30,000  | 6%  |
| \$30,001 - 40,000  | 11% |
| \$40,001 - 50,000  | 12% |
| \$50,001 - 60,000  | 8%  |
| \$60,001 - 80,000  | 10% |
| \$80,001 - 100,000 | 12% |
| Over \$100,000     | 34% |

**11. Current family/household pledge**

(99 respondents)

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Less than \$100 | 10% |
| \$100 - 500     | 23% |
| \$501 - 1,000   | 14% |
| \$1,001 - 1,500 | 13% |
| \$1,501 - 2,000 | 12% |
| \$2,001 - 3,000 | 10% |
| \$3,001 - 4,000 | 5%  |
| \$4,001 - over  | 12% |

**AS A CONGREGATION**

**12. Best describes our personal beliefs** (131 respondents)

|            | Checking all that apply) | (% selecting as single belief) |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Theism     | 30%                      | 8%                             |
| Humanism   | 46%                      | 27%                            |
| Naturalism | 53%                      | 15%                            |
| Mysticism  | 19%                      | 0%                             |
| Other      | 14%                      | 5%                             |

**13. In addition to UU, what other faith traditions important in your religious exploration** (131 respond.)

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Buddhism | 46% |
| Hinduism | 16% |
| Islam    | 8%  |
| Judaism  | 19% |

**13. Cont'd.**

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Neo-Paganism              | 24% |
| Theological Christianity  | 34% |
| Religious Humanism        | 37% |
| Taoism                    | 19% |
| No other faith traditions | 18% |
| Other                     | 14% |

**14. Comfortable with the word God in a religious context** (134 respondents)

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Yes     | 48% |
| Neutral | 32% |
| No      | 20% |

**15. 16% indicate that prayer is an important part of daily life**

**16. 56% indicate that meditation is an important part of daily life**

**17. Most recent prior religious affiliation**

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| None                 | 20% |
| Always a UU          | 9%  |
| Buddhist             | 1%  |
| Catholic Christian   | 16% |
| Jewish               | 1%  |
| Muslim               | 1%  |
| Protestant Christian | 44% |
| Other                | 8%  |

**18. Most closely expresses beliefs about God...**

Supernatural being who is revealed in human experiences and history 6%

Is the ground of all being, real but not adequately describable 21%

May be appropriately used as a name for some natural processes within the universe, such as love or creative evolution 45%

Is an irrelevant concept, and the central focus of religion should be on knowledge and value 11%

Is a concept that is harmful to a worthwhile religion 2%

Other 15%

**19. Feelings about growth of church** (134 respondents)

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Favorable   | 83% |
| Neutral     | 17% |
| Unfavorable | 0%  |

**20. How well have we done over past 2-3 years** (128 respondents) (top 4-5 each category)

**Very Well Done**  
Inclusion music  
Social Justice  
Sunday service  
Social activities  
Intellectual stimulation

**Acceptable**  
Spiritual growth  
UU district, etc.  
Integrating new  
Community srv

**Needs Improvement**  
Handling conflict  
Youth programs  
Adult RE  
Membership growth

**ABOUT THE NEW MINISTER**

**21. 86% agreed with UU tradition and the congregation's historical practice of the minister having freedom of the pulpit whereby s/he may express whatever views held without censorship from the congregation**

Believe that this policy extends to the expression of partisan political views  
46% No  
26% Not sure  
29% Yes

**22. Qualities that most important in new minister** (133 respondents)

Empathy (genuine interest in and concern about others) 59%

Professionally competent (teach, counsel, manage, etc.) 59%

Character (strong moral & ethical consistency, etc.) 57%  
Intellectual depth & rigor 41%  
Creativity (ability to develop & present new ideas) 38%

22. **Qualities that most important in new minister (cont'd.)**

(133 respondents)

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Sense of humor                                   | 38% |
| Catalytic (help make things happen)              | 38% |
| Consultative and cooperative approach            | 34% |
| Collegial (relate personally and professionally) | 30% |
| Sense of calling (motivated, enthusiastic)       | 25% |

23. **Predominant style of minister preferred**

(130 respondents)

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Visionary</b> | <b>40%</b> (envisioning a future of promise, inspires to pursue) |
| Pastor           | 32% (influential counselor to individuals and lay leaders)       |
| Facilitator      | 23% (minister as go-between)                                     |
| Steward          | 5% (as city manager - dogging details)                           |

24. **Ministerial skills and enthusiasms that are most needed**  
(130 respondents)

| <b>Crucial</b> | <b>Significant</b>  | <b>Modest</b>             |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Leadership     | Adult RE            | Committee Work            |
| Preaching      | Administration      | Home visitation           |
| Worship        | Scholarship         | Denominational activities |
|                | Social action       |                           |
|                | Personal counseling |                           |
|                | Youth work          |                           |
|                | Community building  |                           |
|                | Facilitation        |                           |
|                | Membership growth   |                           |

25. **40% are uncomfortable calling a minister who is .....transgender**

26. **65% are uncomfortable calling a minister who is .....politically conservative**

27 **37% are uncomfortable calling a minister who is ....older than 70 yrs of age**

**OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS**

**What are three goals you would like to see our congregation achieve in the next 3-5 years? (Total Respondents - 89)**

- Increase membership - 42
- Religious Education (improve/revitalize) - 26
- General RE comment (8)
- Specifically mentioned RE for youth (11)
- Specifically mentioned RE for adults ( 7)
- Call and help settle a new minister - 16
- Improve financial strength - 15
- Increased involvement in social justice - 15
- Greater community involvement/awareness - 14

**What are three goals you would like to see our congregation achieve in the next 3-5 years? (cont'd.)**

- Specifically mentioned Purdue (3)
- Building improvement/updating/maintenance - 10
- Increase & improve youth social activities - 8
- Build more cohesion/manage conflict/more positive focus - 7
- More people involved in "work" of the church (RE, social activities, bld, etc) - 7
- Increase/support additional music resources - 6
- Build mission/unity of purpose/sense of belonging - 6
- Newcomer and new member integration (cont. improving) - 5
- Educate community about UU church (liberal, etc.) - 4
- Increase UU denominational participation - 4
- Greater focus on spirituality/nature - 3
- Greater variety of social activities (assume adult) - 3
- Revive long range planning - 2

**What congregational issues are likely to be most pressing in the next 1 - 2 years? (Total respondents - 87)**

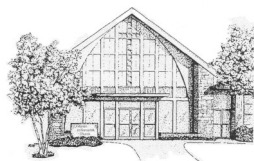
- Economic/financial/budget - 39  
(includes responses re: selling 7th St. property)
- Finding and integrating the new minister - 23
- Handling conflict/healing/building resolution skills - 20
- Significantly improve youth programs (RE & social) - 11
- Ability to increase membership/retain members - 13
- Having sense of community & commitment - 6
- Increase volunteerism for work of church - 5
- Community recognition & know who we are - 5
- Remodel/improve building space - 5
- Support/caring for older/aging membership - 4
- Long range planning - 2
- Intellectual vibrance/stimulation - 2
- Organizational structure/personnel - 2
- Diversity - 1
- Adult RE - 1

**What congregational issues are likely to be most pressing in the next 3 - 10 years? (Total respondents - 66)**

- Membership growth & retention - 23
- Financial stability/economic - 18
- Facilities (upgrading, maintaining, outgrowing) - 11
- Who we are/community outreach (including Purdue) - 10
- Vibrancy of RE program - 5
- Communication/Right relations - 5
- Minister retention - 5
- No clue/don't know - 5
- Social justice (including local issues) - 4
- Sense of community/belonging/identity - 4
- Aging of baby boomers & core membership - 3
- Volunteerism within church - 3
- Green issues/food, water/climate change - 2
- Church leadership - 1
- Intellectual vibrancy - 1
- Goals & planning - 1
- Organizational structure - 1

(concluded pg. 8)

## COMMITTEE AND GROUP NEWS



### UNDER OUR ROOF

Congratulations to Christine, Greg, William, and Caleb Reynolds on the birth of daughter and sister, Rebecca Lynn Ann, July 27, 2009. Rebecca weighed in at 8 lb., 4 oz., and mom and daughter are both doing well. Kirsten and Jack Reynolds are proud & happy grandmother and uncle!

Congratulations to Jennifer Higginbottom and Hunt Wiley on their August wedding!

*If you would like to share a personal milestone, joy, sorrow or illness in the "Under Our Roof" column, or seek further information regarding an announcement posted in this column, please contact Cheryl Fowler, Chairperson, Pastoral Care Committee.*

### MINISTERIAL SEARCH 2009 CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT (CONCLUSION)

#### **What is the worst mistake the new minister could make?** (Total respondents - 87)

*Polarize congregation with focus on one small group over many others - 17*

*Make changes too fast without learning who we are, what we need - 14*

*Have own agenda when come in - not open to ideas of others - 7*

*Be single focused with sermons and community involvement - 2*

#### **What expectations do you have about the minister's family and personal life?** (Total respondents - 89)

*None/no expectations/not our business - 30*

*Be a stable source of support to the minister - 17*

*Expect family to be involved in the church - 9*

*Involvement is not expected, but would like it if they were - 8*

*We should respect family's privacy - 8*

*Family reflect UU principles - 7*

*Not reflect poorly on church with actions in community - 7*

*Free to be involved if choose - 2*

*Not use church for own personal "cause" - 1*

*Answers about minister character - 10*

### SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS-GREETERS, NEWCOMERS TABLE, COFFEE MINISTRY

#### September 6

- *Greeters:* Don & Ruth Ann Ferris, Gary Mueller
- *Newcomers Table:* Shannon Unger, Suzan Windnagel
- *Coffee Ministry:* Beth and Chris Garretson

#### September 13

- *Greeters:* Cheryl Fowler, Diana & Robin Poindexter
- *Newcomers Table:* Kim Harden, Nancy Patchen
- *Coffee Ministry:* Mary Ann Foley

#### September 20

- *Greeters:* Marty & Nancy Patchen, Kim Harden
- *Newcomers Table:* Jean Tyner, Patty Wood
- *Coffee Ministry:* Jackie Sloss

#### September 27

- *Greeters:* Beth & Chris Garretson, Kristen Reynolds
- *Newcomers Table:* Gary Fowler, Gary Mueller
- *Coffee Ministry:* Michael Lewis, Beth and Chris Garretson

### COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS

**AUTUMN FIBERARTS QUILTING BEE** at the *October 5<sup>th</sup> Retreat* will be your LAST chance to make a newborn receiving blanket quilt-top. St. E-East will open in November and it will take 'til then to quilt, hem, label, wash in Ivory, and box those newly pieced at the UU Retreat. We have accepted the congregational request to give half of the quilts to Clarion-Arnett. A total of 2 cartons [40 blankets] are washed in Ivory and individually boxed now. There is another carton in process and in need of hand hemming. If you want to help – take one from the big basket in the hall outside Room 101/103 and return it to the same basket when you've finished. Patty Wood & Kirsten Reynolds.

**UU POTLUCK ON SEPTEMBER 27!** Plan to stay after Sunday service on September 27 for the last Sunday of the month potluck. Enjoy this opportunity for good food and fellowship and to welcome people who are new to our congregation. Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

**FREETHINKERS** Experience the invigorating process of civilly and objectively discussing a variety of controversial topics every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Our September 10th discussion will be in Room 106. The September 24th discussion will be at the PRIDE Community Center at 640 Main St, Lafayette. Go to [www.lafayettefreethinkers.org](http://www.lafayettefreethinkers.org) for more information and to participate in our online discussions

**UU CHURCH CHOIR REHEARSALS** have resumed on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Our choir is welcoming new singers. Please contact Denise Gilliland if you are interested.





## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### *Especially for Newcomers—*

#### **Getting to Know UU:**

An introduction to Unitarian Universalism and to our congregation

*Sunday September 20*

*4:00-8:00 p.m. with a light supper*

*Open to all; childcare provided if requested*

Register online at [www.tinyurl.com/gettingtoknowUU](http://www.tinyurl.com/gettingtoknowUU) or pick up a registration form at church (in the narthex and at the Newcomers table) or contact Kaye McSpadden, Membership Committee Chair.

#### **Newcomers invited to “Talk and Tour” September 20:**

Take a 30-minute guided walk through the building and learn about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. (T&T is usually held the second Sunday of the month, but this month it is re-scheduled to Sept 20 because of the Committee Fair on Sept 13.) Gather at the Newcomers Table in the Fellowship Hall after the service. Registration not required.

#### ***For church leaders—***

#### **“Engaging New Members” workshop on September 19:**

All interested church members and leaders are invited to join with members of the Membership Committee and Connections Committee to participate in a UU Leadership Conference workshop, “Engaging New Members in the Life of the Church” on **Saturday Sept. 19 from 12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.** The workshop is being presented online to people in three UU districts, including ours (Heartland District). We are not yet sure whether we will set up the workshop at the church or another location (because of a Purdue home football game that day). If you are interested in participating, please contact Kaye McSpadden .

*Kaye McSpadden  
Membership Committee Chairperson*

## **Worship Committee News**

During the next few months the Worship Committee will be reflecting upon the mission of the committee:

- *What constitutes a good, quality worship service? How can we make the worship service more meaningful?*
- *What can be done to make the worship service the best it can possibly be?*
- *Would you like to be involved?*

Perhaps you have been interested in the work of the Worship Committee, but do not enjoy speaking in front of the congregation. Not all members of the Worship Committee choose to serve as a worship associate, and it is certainly not required.

If you are interested please contact Dianna Poindexter, Chair of the Worship Committee:

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An Invitation From Our Neighbors At  
St. John's Episcopal Church:  
Meeting God In Nature  
—A Quiet Day Opportunity  
*Saturday September 12, 2009*  
*10 a.m.–2 p.m.*

Enjoy a morning of reflection and respite sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church and held at the Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog on Lindbergh Road, West Lafayette, Indiana. This self-paced morning will include both a guided walking tour of the bog and independent exploration. Bring your own spiritual exercises or select from among those provided. The morning begins with Optional Group Worship. Bring your own brown bag lunch and join us in fellowship. Should you wish, you might extend your sojourn until the center closes at 5 p.m. For further information, please contact St. John's at 742-4079, [www.stjohns-laf.org](http://www.stjohns-laf.org). This quiet day is one of a series of 4 offered each year.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE



The Social Justice Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in 101/103 unless otherwise noted

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee will next meet on September 10 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Room 101/103. Everyone is invited to join our active committee.

Please remember that we have ongoing collections for LUM's Food Pantry and the Women's Shelter. Collection bins are located in the fellowship hall, and deliveries to these social service agencies are made regularly. Thank you for your donations of non-perishable food, gently used towels, sheets, blankets, toiletries and over-the-counter drugs.

## THE COST OF WAR TO INDIANA

"An exhibit that speaks directly to our hearts and reminds us of the human cost of war," *Eyes Wide Open* is the American Friends Service Committee's widely acclaimed exhibition on the human cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Over 155 pairs of empty combat boots tagged with the names of Indiana servicemen and women who have died in the current wars will be displayed together with a visual representation of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi and Afghanistani civilians who have died during the conflicts.

**September 16 & 17, 2009 9:00am-6:00pm**  
**Ivy Tech Mall, Creasy Lane & U.S. 52, Lafayette**

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sheila at [rose.fam2856@gmail.com](mailto:rose.fam2856@gmail.com), (765)463-4705, or Tom at [tmconville1200@comcast.net](mailto:tmconville1200@comcast.net), (765)477-0344. Sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee ([www.afsc.org/eyes](http://www.afsc.org/eyes)) and the One War Is Too Many Coalition: Lafayette Area Peace Coalition, Social Concerns Committee of St. Thomas Aquinas Center, Lafayette Friends Meeting, Witness Commission of Lafayette Church of the Brethren and Social Justice Committee of Unitarian Universalist Church.

## CHANGE FOR CHANGE

**CHANGE FOR CHANGE**, focusing on organizations that help people with mental health and physical challenges this year, has selected **Greater Lafayette Area Special Services Co-operative (GLASS)** as September's recipient. GLASS has a mission to inspire and empower all children to learn, hope, dream, contribute, excel and appreciate. They work with children in all schools in Tippecanoe County (public, private, home). They conduct a yearly search for all children with disabilities from birth through age twenty-one, to ensure that every child with a disability who resides within Tippecanoe County, is receiving the special education and related services that are his or her right under state and federal law. For further information, please visit <http://www.lsc.k12.in.us/GLASS/>. If you have questions regarding the Change for Change program please contact Social Justice Committee member, Bill Kannel.

## LAFAYETTE U R B A N M I N I S T R Y UPDATE



Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM) is a non-profit ecumenical organization which provides assistance and relief to Lafayette's needy children and families. For over 30 years, LUM has worked to give back the hope, the future, and the self-respect to low-income people in the Greater Lafayette area by taking an active role in trying to change social injustices and improve the quality of life for the poor of Indiana.

LUM is a partnership of 40 congregations from 20 faith traditions, including the Unitarian Universalist Church, working together to bring compassion and justice to Lafayette's needy children and families. LUM serves the community through 23 assistance programs and is a model for urban ministry in other regions. Lafayette Urban Ministry is located at: 525 North 4th. St. Lafayette, IN 47901-1001

**Homeless Shelter:** The Homeless Shelter needs volunteers. Contact Joyce Fasani at 765-423-2691 for more details; for additional volunteer opportunities, visit [www.lafayetteurbanministry.org](http://www.lafayetteurbanministry.org). The shelter also needs pocket calendars for shelter guests in case management.

**LUM Camp:** Best ever! Look for report in a future *Meridian Street Bulletin*.

**Hunger Hike:** This year's Hunger Hike will be held on September 20th. Go to [www.lafayetteurbanministry.org](http://www.lafayetteurbanministry.org) to find out more. You can download a registration form and start collecting sponsors and donations now.

*Mary Finley,  
Future Board President  
UU LUM Representative*

For an **up to date calendar of church, activities**, please visit [www.uulafayette.org](http://www.uulafayette.org) and click "calendar" or see the printed calendars that are posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary and across from 101/103.



**SOCIAL JUSTICE: KEEPING OUR WORLD GREEN  
THIS MONTH'S ACTION PLEDGE  
BRING YOUR USED BATTERIES DURING SEPTEMBER**



Green Sanctuary collecting used household batteries for recycling. The average American throws out about 8 household batteries per year. You probably have some around the house now. As most of you know, used batteries should not be thrown away with ordinary garbage. Metals (such as mercury and lead) from batteries that are improperly disposed of may leach slowly into soil, groundwater, or surface water and cause other environmental damage.

To make it easier for you to dispose of household batteries, there will be a receptacle for such batteries in the Fellowship Hall of the church during the month of September. You may drop off either chargeable or non-rechargeable batteries of any type (for flashlights, toys, cameras, watches, cellular phones, etc.). However, no auto batteries or similar large batteries can be accepted.

We will arrange for the household batteries to be properly recycled.

**What Are Your Ideas?** We have been suggesting ideas to promote a healthy environment, with articles in *The Lighted Chalice* about a variety of topics (lawn care, food choices, power usage, water barrels). What questions, suggestions or ideas do you have concerning ways to preserve the environment? Send your thoughts to Marty Patchen or pass them on to any other member of the Green Sanctuary Committee -- Don Ferris, Andrew Hirsch, Cliff Sadof, Rae Schnapp, Elizabeth Sterneke.

*Marty Patchen, Chairperson  
Green Sanctuary Committee*

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:  
FAMILY PROMISE:**

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, and people from the three congregations worked together to prepare bedrooms at OSLC, host, cook meals and staff the FPGL day center. We served two families including four children during the week, and it is gratifying to think that we could provide a safe and happy environment for these families in need. Thanks to the following UUs who assisted with setting up and disassembling the rooms at OSLC: Wally and Jean Tyner; to Sharon McKnight, Beverly Seese, and Jackie Sloss for hosting during the evening (and providing music and games); to Meg Howlett, Suzan Windnagel, and Lisa Pantea for sleeping over at OSLC; to Josh Prokopy, Ruth Ann Ferris, and Jean Tyner for providing dinner; and to Shannon

Unger, Nancy Patchen, Kris Singleton, and Kim and Kalina Harden for volunteering at the day center on the weekend

Here are some reflections from the volunteer UUs: **Shannon:** *The best part of yesterday's visit was hanging out with the kids. I haven't played Trouble in years and, not only was it great fun, I know that the kids really appreciated having someone to play with.* **Jackie:** *I keep thinking that these new opportunities are opportunities for growth for myself as well, so I thank you for giving people in our church the opportunity to be part of this project and expanding our capacity to reach out to others.* **Suzan:** *Staying overnight is real easy. After really brief introductions you can tell if the family is interested in company. I played Sequence with a mother and her daughter.....and the other kids*

*were all playing hide & seek...which they let me play a bit. Being their audience seemed to make them about as happy as anything. The host room was comfortable, had a great bed side reading light. So a relatively shy person would be fine if they just wanted to hang out there during the overnight.* **Ruth Ann:** *The van was arriving as I took the food so I did see the families. I came home feeling more thankful than ever that I have a home to go to. I can't imagine this kind of life. I hope something changes for them soon.*

**Our next week to host will be November 1-8, so please consider how you might be able to provide support services to homeless families in our community.** Thanks to everyone who stepped forward this time and volunteered to make a difference. Gratefully, Jean Tyner on behalf of the Social Justice Committee



**George  
Enjoys a  
Good Read**

***If you have a Facebook account, be sure to become a friend on our congregation's Facebook Page. To find it, just type "Unitarian Universalist West Lafayette" in the Search Box.***



NURTURE YOUR SPIRIT.  
HELP HEAL OUR WORLD.

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ALL CHURCH RETREAT

The Unitarian Universalist Church  
Annual Summer Retreat  
October 2nd-4th  
Ross Camp  
West Lafayette.

This event has been held for 20 years now and is one of the best ways to get to know your fellow UU's in a relaxed, outdoor setting. Ross Camp is located in Tippecanoe County, approximately 15 minutes from West Lafayette, along the Wabash River. Please look for the **REGISTRATION FORM** insert in this newsletter, fill it out and return to the church— be a part of planning this important UUC event. For further information contact Lisa Pantea or Eric Thiel.

*Enso by Deiru Kutsu 1895-1954*

### Our Covenant

Love is the spirit  
of this church  
and service  
is its law.

This is our covenant:  
to dwell together  
in peace,  
to seek the truth  
in love,  
and to help  
one another.

### Our Mission Statement

The Unitarian Universalist Church is a nurturing religious community that celebrates diverse beliefs and encourages spiritual growth through lifelong learning.

Guided by our Unitarian Universalist Principles, we support each other in our life journeys and work toward social justice in the local and world communities.