



THE FIRST Unitarian

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From The Minister

A saying I heard in my childhood claims that “seven moves are as good as a fire;” the implication being, as I understand it, that every household move entails chaos and incidental loss, the cumulative effect of which will eventually equal that of a house fire. I don’t know if the equation is true, but I do know that moving is disruptive, and I’m very glad not to have had to engage in it for the past ten years.

It would appear that ten years is the limit of non-chaos, at least this time around. Over the summer, Mark and I got inspired to replace our building contractor installed carpeting with ecologically trendy bamboo laminate hardwood floors. This was going to be a *summer* project, mind you. It was the first week of November before I got to re-hang the living room curtains, and I am anxiously proposing to be able to have company in the dining room for Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, all our good china and furniture have been packed into the garage, to which the cars are hoping to return before they have to sit out in the snow. Of course, my ending up on crutches with a broken ankle in the middle of this do-it-yourself project was, to say the least, not helpful. The new floor is luminous, and lovely, and now that we are into the finishing touches, Mark and Joanna, our niece/assistant, and I are quite pleased with ourselves. I’m still itching to get the rest of the furniture back in place, and the dishes out of the boxes. I know that there will be some small percentage of things that won’t have survived the process, or that just won’t look right anymore as we put the room back together; that’s okay. It’s good to have enough disruption to blast us out of our ruts every once in a while, and a new floor is surely easier than moving the whole household. Nevertheless, I’m eager to end the reign of chaos, and get things back under control on the home front.

And it looks as though this will be none too soon, as chaos starts to loom before us in the FUS office! Thanks to the great generosity and kindness of the Alliance, the staff has been able to plan a thorough refurbishment of our work space. After living with extremely worn and dilapidated floors as long as I’ve been here, and I assume for some time before that, we are going to install a good, industrial grade carpet throughout the office suite, repaint the walls, repair the fallen ceiling tiles, and rearrange the configuration of desks for better efficiency and flow. We will leave tile floor in the work area with the copier and sink. This means that all our furniture will be moved out of the offices for about two weeks around the Christmas/New Years time frame; the staff will be working from home, and/or from other spots

Continued on page 4

CONTENTS

From The Minister.....	1&4
Forum/Assembly Preview.....	2&3
Holiday Services.....	3
Music Notes.....	4
Religious Education.....	5
The Alliance News.....	6
Stewardship Corner.....	7
Social Action.....	8
Membership News.....	8
From The Ministerial Intern.....	9
Events & Announcements...	10-11



Order of Service announcements are appreciated by noon on Wed. of each week. Please email your submission(s) to: info@firstunitariansociety.org

Newsletter submissions are due by the 10th of each month and should be sent to newsletter@firstunitariansociety.org

Forum and Assembly Previews

Forums are at 9:30 a.m. in the Lower Assembly Hall.

■ **12/2/07 FORUM:** No Forum Program Scheduled.

■ **12/9/07 FORUM:** “Ending Poverty in Minnesota — Moving from Vision to Action”

Presenter: Brian Rusche

Brian Rusche is Executive Director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, a social justice organization that mobilizes religious communities to influence public policies in Minnesota. Poverty has been a key concern for JRLC members, who have worked with the state legislature to create the Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota. What is the Commission’s mandate? How are they carrying it out? What can congregations like FUS do to help move from vision to action on this critical issue?

The FUS Social Action Committee organizes Forums at least monthly; economic justice is the theme for December. The Monthly Social Justice Collection gathered during Assembly today will be directed to the Masjid An-Nur Food Shelf.

■ **12/16/07 FORUM:** “What’s Your Social Justice Passion?”

Presenter: Jo Haberman

FUS Social Action Committee members will facilitate a discussion about the fundamentals of organizing for social justice. Change begins when people identify what they are passionate about — and get into working relationships with others who share those passions. If it’s not important to you, you won’t get off the couch to make it happen! But what happens next — when you’re off the couch and in motion? Come join the discussion about how change happens.

■ **12/23/07 FORUM:** No Forum Program Scheduled

■ **12/30/07 FORUM:** Conversation with Kendyl

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

This is an opportunity to explore what’s on your mind in a freewheeling discussion with Kendyl — ask questions, offer observations, talk about the Society’s future, the nature of ministry, good books, or whatever is shaping your thinking these days. Questions you wish you had asked at the New Member Orientation are welcome.

Assemblies are at 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Assembly Hall.

◆ **12/2/07 ASSEMBLY:** “The Postmodern Problem”
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

Christian fundamentalists often cite the philosophical position of Postmodernism as an example of what goes wrong with the world once orthodoxy is abandoned. At the same time, some Humanists claim that Postmodernism attempts to undermine the intellectual validity of our perspective. What is Postmodernism, anyway, and why does it draw fire from both sides of this debate? Is there a kernel of useful truth to be found among the heaps of impenetrable verbiage?

◆ **12/9/07 ASSEMBLY:** “I’ll Be Homeless for Christmas”
Speaker: Steven Protzman, Ministerial Intern

The American educator and poet Eli Siegel asked a very relevant question that I believe is at the core of Unitarian Universalist theology and central to the Humanist world view: “What does a person deserve by being alive?”

This question is answered in our first principle, which affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every human being and reminds us that every person should have access to their essential needs for survival — including a safe, warm shelter. Who will be homeless on Christmas Eve or any other night of the year? Why? Can we fix this problem by creating livable wages and affordable housing as some theologians and economists have suggested? How can we as UUs respond to this pressing problem in our communities? In the course of this service we’ll sing the old chestnut “I’ll be home for Christmas”, hear several different perspectives on homelessness, including poetry written by homeless people, and explore this complex issue as part of the systemic problem of economic injustice.



The Monthly Social Justice Collection gathered today will be directed to the Masjid An-Nur Food Shelf.

Holiday Services

December 24, Light Sharing Celebration

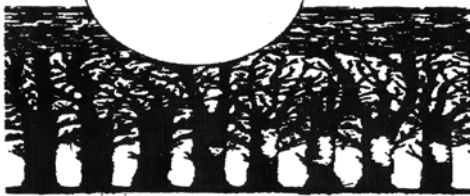
Speaking: Kendyl Gibbons, Steven Protzman and others



The promise of healing, redemption, and light in the darkness is as ancient as human fear and human hope. Come share the light, sing the songs, and celebrate the universal meaning of Christmas. Children are invited to bring mittens for the Mitten Tree, and all are invited to come early and

share hot chocolate and cookies starting at 5:00 p.m.

Winter Solstice



Celebration

Saturday, December 22

6:00 p.m. Dinner & Caroling

7:00 p.m. Midwinter Revels Program

8:00 p.m. Dessert & Folk Dance

9:00 p.m. Yule Log Fire Ring

Tickets \$8.00

Youth 18 & under \$4.00

(Tickets \$10 adults and \$5 for kids at the door.)

Purchase tickets at FUS on Sundays or

Send check to FUS office to reserve tickets

-Bring your own wine, if desired-

-Childcare available for babies and toddlers-

For more information or to help, contact Audrey at 952-924-1039 or akingstrom@comcast.net.

Assembly Previews

continued

Assemblies are at 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Assembly Hall

◆ 12/16/07 ASSEMBLY: MUSIC SUNDAY



“Stars, Shepherds, and Sleighs”

The Wonder of the Season

FUS Chorus and Orchestra

Carol of the Bells

Carol of the Birds

What Sweeter Music

Kije’s Sleigh Ride

Shepherd’s Pipe Carol

AND MORE!

Don’t miss it!

◆ 12/23/07 ASSEMBLY: “Song in the Skies: Yuletide Service for All Ages”

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

The image of winged angels filling the night sky with music to announce the birth of Jesus is familiar to our culture, but how about a sky full of dragons? That’s what legend says accompanied the birth of Confucius, the great sage of China, whose humanist teachings continue to shape the world on the other side of the globe. Wise and great people always begin as tiny babies; wisdom begins in our shared hopes for better ways to live together in peace.

◆ 12/30/07 ASSEMBLY: Golden Oldie

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

A survey during the month of November will determine which sermon from past years members of the congregation would like to hear again. If you haven’t seen the choices in your order of service, check in the office for a copy so that you can indicate your preference. Some ideas are enduring enough, and some words are compelling enough, that it is worth hearing them again.

From The Minister

continued

around the building, until the redone space is ready for us to occupy again. Once we are back in, I think you'll notice a significant upgrade in our public institutional appearance, as well as happier volunteers and workers.

As those who have spent any time in my own office may suppose, temporarily relocating my library is going to be no small project. I'm taking advantage of the inescapable necessity to pack up the books by having them scanned and computer cataloged as we go; at the end of this tedious process, I'll have a splendid inventory of the whole collection, which I think will be quite useful. Inevitably, this whole project will be attended by a certain degree of chaos, and when we put everything back together, some changes and losses will have occurred. But it seems to me that this is the nature of life; if we are not tolerating the chaos of change, then we are trapped in the stagnation of unthinking habit, and that's no way for a bunch of humanists to go about things. I am extremely grateful to the members of the Alliance for their financial support, and to our new facilities manager, Caidin Riley, for master-minding the process with Will Hegeman, our congregational administrator. Steven Protzman, our intern this year, is also generously lending his architectural layout design skills.



It is my hope that we will move through this undertaking with little impact on the life of the congregation at large, and by mid-January be back up and running to serve our constituents without any problem. If by chance it doesn't quite happen that way, I hope we can all be patient with whatever glitches may occur. And I expect that we'll all be very pleased with the look of our improved office facilities whenever they are completed.

In the meantime, I hope that the holiday season brings all of us some brightening joy, and some lingering peace. As the cold settles in, sharing the warmth of hearts and hands becomes more necessary; may each of us find that we are both the source, and the recipient, of that warmth. Happy Yuletide!

Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons
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Music Notes

Please mark December 16 on your calendars as the FUS Chorus and Orchestra will present the first Music Sunday of the season. We are very excited about this morning as Gabriela and I have chosen beautiful carols from around the world. We have selected Carols from Russia, Spain, Germany, Italy, France, Britain, and the United States. Some of the highlights will include an evocative piece called, "The Adoration of the Magi" from Trittico Botticelliano by Respighi. Also, the chorus and orchestra will perform some delightful arrangements of Carols by John Rutter and John Gardner, two of Britain's most respected composers. Their settings of "The Shepherd's Pipe Carol" and "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day" are delightful and will have you whistling the tunes as you leave the auditorium! Finally, the morning would not be complete without Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride! WHEE! I guarantee a festive, beautiful morning that will put you in the spirit of the holidays!

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Associate Music Director
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Save the Dates

Upcoming Adult RE Programs with
Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons
Thursday Evenings

Humanist History
January 10 - February 21, 7:00 p.m.

Constructing a Personal Worldview
March 13 - May 15.

Watch for more information in
The First Unitarian newsletter and
The Unitarian FLASH e-newsletter
as the dates draw closer.

Religious Education

One of the things that I am trying to practice as I get older — some would say as a spiritual practice, others as a personal growth issue — is to assume good will of others as I interact with them. We may be disagreeing but if I look at it from the point of view that we are both trying our best to sort through a problem, then the process seems to go more smoothly, for me at least. I don't get as defensive and righteous in my stance if I try to assume good will from others.

But, that is not to say that I don't recognize hostility when I see or hear it! I was just taken aback about four years ago when I was sitting in the basketball bleachers on a December Saturday with a group of parents, some I knew and some I did not. When the game was over, Cory and I got up and wished everyone happy holidays and were about to leave when a woman came up to me and said, "That's Merry Christmas!" I was so startled that my good will clause kicked in, but by the time I got to the car I knew that that woman was not wishing me a Merry Christmas out of good will! And so I was introduced to this growing debate about holiday greetings.

On November 25th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, was a special project Sunday. No regular Sunday school classes. I took the whole group and talked about the various traditions that the month of December holds for various people. I talked about Hanukkah, Christmas, Solstice, and Kwanzaa. We talked about the stories of all of these traditions and what central human experience can be found in each, and linking each. It was a wonderful, inclusive session as we found common threads of light, hope, miracle, and being the best that you can be, woven into the various traditions.

I must say that doing that lesson only reconfirmed my desire to say "Happy Holidays" to people this December. This season is so rich with different meanings for people. I for one wouldn't want to not be inclusive for my, or others', sake. However, I usually assume good will when I am wished a Merry Christmas. You know when it is coming from a place of good will and someone's family/personal traditions, or when it is coming from a place of capitulation, as when I watched the ad for a local discount store as they displayed Merry Christmas in their ad (something they wouldn't have done a few years ago but now obviously think it is the right thing to do politically).

So, I say to you this holiday season assume good will, but be alert, for narrow mindedness and exclusivity don't go away because it's December.

Jan Devor

Director of Religious Education

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News from the RE Program

Northern Clay Mobile

We are very excited to have the Northern Clay Mobile coming and helping all of our children and youth grades K-12 make clay bowls. They will begin on November 18 and will continue making them on December 2 and 9. Then, on Dec. 16 they will be sold to this congregation with the proceeds benefiting the UU schools in the Khasi Hills of India — yes, there are UUs in the hills of northern India! The bowls will come with cards that read: "Be radical. Teach a child to read. Then they can think for themselves." There will be space on the card for your personal holiday greeting. Fill the bowl with candy, and you have the perfect gift! We hope that you will remember this project as you think of holiday gift giving.

Thank You

- ❖ We thank Audrey Kingstrom and her RE volunteers who will put on a morning of solstice activities for our children on December 16.
- ❖ We thank the senior high youth group who is spearheading the drive for the food shelf at mosque Masjid An-Nur. The final day of the drive will be December 9 (no pork products please) with youth and adults from FUS working at the food shelf on December 15th.

Volunteer Opportunity

The RE Program needs a teacher for the Kindergarten class beginning in January for a term of 9 weeks. Please contact Jan Devor if you are interested.

Donation Opportunities

Don't forget that there will be Mitten Tree donations at the Christmas Eve Service and also at that service there will be a collection taken to support the Minnesota Visiting Nurses. Both of these collections have been so helpful to various communities and we look forward to continuing this tradition here at FUS.

The Alliance News

The Alliance is a dynamic group of dedicated members and friends of FUS. We form friendships, exchange ideas, give service and support to the Society, promote liberal religion, and encourage and inspire personal growth. Please know that the Alliance welcomes new members at any time. Annual dues are \$25. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Angie O'Neill at 612-722-0784.

On November 7, we heard Kelli Clement speak on "Reaching Toward Racial Justice." For the rest of the year, program meetings are slated for the first Wednesday of February, March, April, May and June in the Dietrich Room. The schedule is as follows: lunch ticket sales at 10:45 a.m., program at 11:00 a.m., lunch at noon, with a business meeting immediately following. The cost is \$7. If you are interested in attending a meeting, contact Olive Sarkinen at 763-544-6168.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Alliance is looking for someone willing to serve as a back-up courier for Max Green on our program meeting days. Those dates in 2008 are: February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4. You would help out only when Max Green, our current courier, cannot help out that day. Your responsibilities would include receiving the payment check from Suzy Sewell, driving to The Wedge on Hennepin Avenue, picking up the luncheon food and delivering it to the Dietrich Room by 11:50 a.m. or so. In addition to our grateful thanks, you will be rewarded with a delicious lunch. Think about it! If you'd like to volunteer, or would like more information, please contact Jan Sigmund at 651-646-2455.

75th Annual Holiday Tea

December 1 marks the date of the 75th Annual Holiday Tea hosted by the Association of Universalist Women at First Universalist Church. Alliance members are invited to join them at this festive event from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Please note this is a change from the time listed in the Alliance booklet!) The event will include a potpourri of songs, pomander-making, sharing of traditions and of course, tea and tea cakes. The address is 3400 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55408.



Membership Updates:

New member:

Anderson, Kathleen - 117 Portland #404, Mpls., 55401, 612-343-4929, AndersonKClarke@aol.com

Please note these changes to the Alliance membership booklet:

Joyce Blomquist: new email address - cjblomquist@comcast.net.

O'Neill, Angie: new address (same phone & e-mail) - 4300 W. River Pkwy. S., #415, Mpls., 55406-3680

Wallace, Barbara: as of 11/4, winter address & phone - 83 Lake Pointe Dr., Mulberry, FL 33860, 863-425-2319.



Stewardship Corner

Types and Times of Giving: A Brief Synopsis

Acts of Stewardship at FUS can take many forms. Some appear in volunteer servicing: commitments to our committees; to the FUS and Foundation Boards; to involvement in our music programs; to ushering or Eat 'N' Meet volunteerism; to helping in the FUS office and assisting Kendyl with Sunday Assembly readings; to pouring coffee and teaching RE. The list goes on, and in all its expressions it tells us we are a community of caring people.

Without the Stewardship examples noted above, our Humanist ship would founder.

But we must also see ourselves as Monetary Stewards, providing support through annual pledging: for salaries; for programs; for heat and light and water and sewer; and for the regular maintenance of the "house" we have come to love as friends and members of this FUS family.

And there are times in the life of every "house" when extra dollars must be found: for major repairs; for substantial building improvements; for responses to city code changes; for commitment to expanding program opportunities; or for easier access to our building from each of its entry zones. Again, the list can go on.

Extra dollars must, of course, be built on top of a solid base of annual pledging. And the reasons for seeking those extra dollars must be well discussed, adequately understood and broadly supported by the FUS family of members before project ideas can become project actions. Project actions will not want to begin until their funding can be assured.

The ultimate issue, then, once we know what projects we want to pursue: Will we be able to count on having the money?

To answer that critical question we will seek help from a feasibility specialist who serves the congregations of the UUA. Timing will be a factor.

When you read this column, we will be entering the final month of 2007. Given that fact you may be pleased to know that there is a new account at FUS designed to receive tax deductible gifts dedicated to studying congregational capital campaign capacity and related projects. The FUS Board will review all information to better determine the potential for major building improvements over a three to five year span.

Clearly, Stewardship is a grand and uplifting process inviting diverse forms of involvement. December will be a key month. The opportunity is ours! So is the challenge.



NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

FUS has implemented a new online payment page at our website, www.firstunitariansociety.org. You now can combine pledge payments and foundation gifts in one payment. Plus, you can make your payment with your credit or debit card.

Social Action

The Social Action Committee will hold its monthly meeting on December 16 from noon - 2:00 p.m. This is a change from our usual fourth Sunday of the month because of the holiday season.

Thank You for Your Help...

...by contributing to our first three Special Collections this year, for attending the soup luncheons and for purchasing Jane Evershed's prints this summer. All of the proceeds from these efforts have allowed the Social Action Committee to provide grants for some worthy programs.

During the summer prints were for sale in the gallery, donated by the artist, Jane Evershed, (www.evershed.com). The proceeds from the sales, \$700, went to *Girls in Action*, a personal development and career planning program for teenage girls in four Minneapolis high schools. *The PEACE Foundation* in North Minneapolis received \$660 from the September Social Justice collection. A week later *Military Families Speak Out* received a grant of \$500, much of it raised at the soup lunch on September 16. A little over \$2000 was collected for *Habitat for Humanity* on November 11 in addition to over \$400 earned at the soup lunch, also for Habitat. That money will be added to the amounts collected in five other metro congregations during the year and will be used to fund our week-long build in June, 2008.

Grants also came from the Social Action budgeted funds: \$450 to *Jefferson Community School*, matching \$450 from the Pearson Fund. Each \$150 will provide a scholarship for a low-income student to participate in a class camping trip to the Black Hills, lead by FUS member, Leif Carlson. Two hundred dollars was given to the *Iraqi Art Project*, an organization designed to promote peace effort in the Middle East.



Some new window blinds were purchased (\$225) for the *Agape Child Development Center* in north Minneapolis and we used \$375 to match the Minister's Discretionary Fund for *Project Connect* (personal hygiene supplies for the homeless).

Check the Social Action Bulletin Board in the Lower Assembly Hall for an on-going list of social justice collections and grants.

Membership News

Welcome Yule! And Welcome to the newest members of the congregation! In the Lower Assembly Hall, we have posted their pictures and their biographical information that was shared during the induction ceremony. But I thought it would be fun to pull out a fun fact about each one to list here. Please introduce yourself to them as you see them around the building; they are fabulous individuals.



Tyrone Harvey - Has lived in Japan.
Eric Deiman - Balances computer programming by day, with art at night.
Joe Lazur - Lifelong NY Yankees fan.
Angie Dhruvan and Dan Stewart - Loving parents to 5 year old Laura, who knows what fractions are and she isn't afraid to use them!
Ruth and Jeremy Janisch Lake - Met while guiding in the Boundary Waters.
Chris and Kristina Darnell - Very committed to education, both are working on further degrees.
Terry Burke and Andy Berman, and daughter Rachel- Long time UU members from Chicago.
Susan Blubaum - Has two children and three grandchildren.
John Jacobsen - Attended FUS in the 1960s.
Andy Nederveld and Sharon Teska - If you know a lot about Marx, talk to Andy. Sharon is a passionate volunteer with Planned Parenthood.
Joanna Calvin - A life-long UUer.
Nick O'Bryan - Works in federal law enforcement.
Sara and Reuben Garcia - Both are teachers in the Hopkins School District.
Henry Jerome - His children are the fourth generation of Jeromes at FUS.
Andy Buttler and Wendy Lyman - Both are attending the U of M.

Teresa West
Membership Coordinator
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From The Intern

As I write this column, the weather has made a dramatic change and we have seen the first snow flurries. The days have become short and cold and we are entering into the time of rest and darkness, a time to nurture the inner self as our energy and spirits are renewed for the eventual return of spring. As I reflect again on the passage of time, I find myself fascinated by the rituals that go with the changing cycle of the year. Are there rituals for you that add meaning and richness and depth to the transition from fall into the winter? Do any of these rituals inform your spiritual life or practices as a Unitarian Universalist?

As a community, we celebrated the Day of the Dead on November 4, remembering those who are still with us in spirit but have shed their physical being. What a beautiful ritual that was, complete with a wonderful altar decorated with skeletons and flowers and candles, and a magnificent requiem presented by the chorus and orchestra. For me, this service affirmed life, was a powerful reminder of how short our time is on this earth, and provided another opportunity to marvel at the many strengths of this community, including a diverse music program that invites many of us to share our gift of music and enrich our worship life together. We have also once again welcomed new members into our Society, another important ritual that reminds us that we can only be complete human beings in relationship with one another and that this community exists in order to help us enter into deeper, more authentic relationship with one another and to help us discover our vocation, our call to service towards the greater good of our world.

And now we are in the heart of the holidays, a time of many diverse rituals in which we have opportunities to renew our relationships with family and friends through holiday events and gift giving, to find hope in the stories of Hanukkah, to reflect on the meaning of Christmas, to celebrate African culture, community and family at Kwanzaa, and to mark different transitions into a new year. The solstice celebration will remind us of the gradual return of the light and the promise that spring will come eventually, and New Year's Day will mark the beginning of a new calendar

year. For each of us, these rituals will be different in how we choose to observe them, if at all, and this time of year may find some of us celebrating while others struggle with the long dark nights, the demands on time and energy, or losses that have happened at this time of year.

A colleague recently shared with me a ritual for New Year's Day that informs her spiritual practice for the year. Instead of making New Year's resolutions, she chooses

a word that reflects a desired attitude or quality in her life. For example, one year it was the word harmony. She related to me that every time she had a decision to make or wanted to make a change in her life, or when she was struggling with a problem or concern, her spiritual practice would be to meditate on the word harmony, and seek to make that decision or change or find an answer to the problem based on what would create harmony in her life and

the lives of others. She finds this practice empowering because rather than a resolution or a promise that often got broken or was unrealistic, she had a way to frame her approach to every part of her life. As she said to me "It really works!"

As a New Year's ritual, what if each of us chose a word that is consistent with our values and beliefs as Unitarian Universalists and then we made decisions and took actions through the year that were consistent with that word? What would your word be? Peace? Hope? Justice? Compassion? Gratitude? Generosity? Joy? Courage? Integrity? Humility? Loving-kindness? (OK, maybe I cheated by hyphenating that one!) What word or words would we choose for this community?

As we make meaning of the holidays through rituals and traditions and we gather in community to mark the passing of times and seasons, it is my hope that our spiritual lives will deepen more and more as we continue our journey together exploring what it means to be Unitarian Universalists and human beings seeking to be our fullest selves.

Steven Protzman
Ministerial Intern

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Events & Announcements

Sunday, December 2

The Holiday Temptations and Gift Sale

This is the day when you can stock up your goodies pantry and gift-giving stash at one special sale. We will be set up in the Lower Assembly Hall after the morning services with...

... crunchy biscotti to dip, rich sauces to drizzle, buttery cookies to melt in your mouth at afternoon tea, luscious cakes to slice for dessert, nut-laden treasures to munch...

... scenes of Minnesota's natural beauty in photographs by the Blacklocks, unique artwork on blank cards, Scandinavian imagery in handmade pots, cozy hand-knit items, and much, much more!

These special, one-of-a-kind items will be on sale for your holiday giving and enjoyment at the annual Holiday Temptations and Gift Sale sponsored by The Alliance. All proceeds go to the Alliance, which supports the FUS community in myriad ways. See you there!

If you are interested in volunteering to ensure the success of the gift sale, please contact Claire Olson, 612-869-0891 or claireol@tcinternet.net. For the bake sale, contact Linnea Asp, 763-551-1558 or linneaasp@comcast.net.



What's Green at FUS?

Next Meeting, December 2

Wondering what happened to the FUS Green Team? We've been on a bit of a hiatus, but are back, energized and ready to move ahead to implement the Green Sanctuary Action Plan that the congregation created and approved last spring. A couple of actions (CFL light bulb sales, tree planting, and Greenway cleaning) took place last spring and over the summer. Now it is time to dig into some of the other great activities, some of which will be "behind the scenes" — like adding up-to-date environmental information to the RE curriculum — and others may be more "front and center," like an array of additional recycling bins, perhaps. And then there is that old boiler...

Happily, even with the Green Team resting, others are acting green. Polly Peterson was spotted getting her own reusable coffee cup filled at coffee hour, rather than taking a disposable one. Also, this fall the FUS Office Staff took initiative to reduce paper use by starting a system of reusing the Order of Service covers for a month before recycling them. This step can reduce our paper use by 200 sheets per Sunday, or about 10,000 sheets per year — that's one big happy tree left standing. Every step taken builds our spiritual practice of our seventh principle.



Please join us for our fall meeting, Sunday, December 2, 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room. Any one, any age, is welcome. Bring your ideas and energy. And if you can't make the meeting, consider following Polly's example, and bring your own mug to coffee hour! Questions? Contact Madalyn Cioci (612-926-5249) or Pete Raynor (952-513-0729).

May All the People with December Birthdays Have a Festive Celebration!

Lydia Clemence
Colleen Curran
Raynelle Delvo
Adele Hanson
Haley Holsather
Maureen Hunt
Molly Illes
Vincent O'Connell
Lorraine Madison



Jeff Magnuson
David Marks
Catherine McKegney
Elizabeth Rosenberg
Janice Scofield
Peg Wattson
Beau Young
Hayden Zheng

Events & Announcements

In the Gallery

The Art Committee presents paintings by Laurie Salmela and Marjorie Moody in the Foyer Gallery, starting Sunday, December 2, and running through Sunday, January 6. The artists are hosting a reception for their show, open to members and friends of FUS, on Sunday, December 9 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Foyer Gallery.

Laurie Salmela's work is predominantly in watercolor and transparent acrylic. She says, "Though I usually paint from nature, my goal is not to accurately render physical characteristics, but to relate the spirit of the place or thing or how I feel about it." She is an award-winning artist with a BFA in drawing and painting from the University of Minnesota. She is a former president of the board of directors of the Women's Art Registry of Minnesota and program coordinator for their Exhibition and Fresh Art Programs. Her teaching experience includes an adjunct professorship at Hamline University, classes at the U of MCMU Studio, and workshops in Akumal, Mexico. She is currently teaching at her studio in the Northrup King building in NE Minneapolis and at elder creativity programs throughout Minneapolis.

Marjorie Moody's main concerns in painting are color, mood, rhythm and spontaneity. She likes to paint on location in watercolor and oils, and also works in her studio in a fairly loose, expressionistic style. Her paintings are an affirmation of life, joy, freedom, beauty and peace. She received her



Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota. She has had solo exhibitions nationally and internationally. Her work is in private collections throughout the U.S., Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, Canada and Italy.

Women's Awareness Group Celebrates 25 Years

The Women's Awareness Group's December meeting will be a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of our group.



We will meet on Monday, December 10 at the home of Martha Hardesty, 2200 Draper Avenue, Roseville, MN. Shirlee Scott is the cohost. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper followed by an evening of music and songs of the season. Bring an instrument if you have one. Women are also invited to bring an unwrapped gift suitable for a woman in a women's shelter. FUS women are invited to join us. Please call Martha (651-639-0070) or Shirlee (763-588-1481) to RSVP and for directions.

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Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Main phone number: 612-377-6608

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The First Unitarian Society

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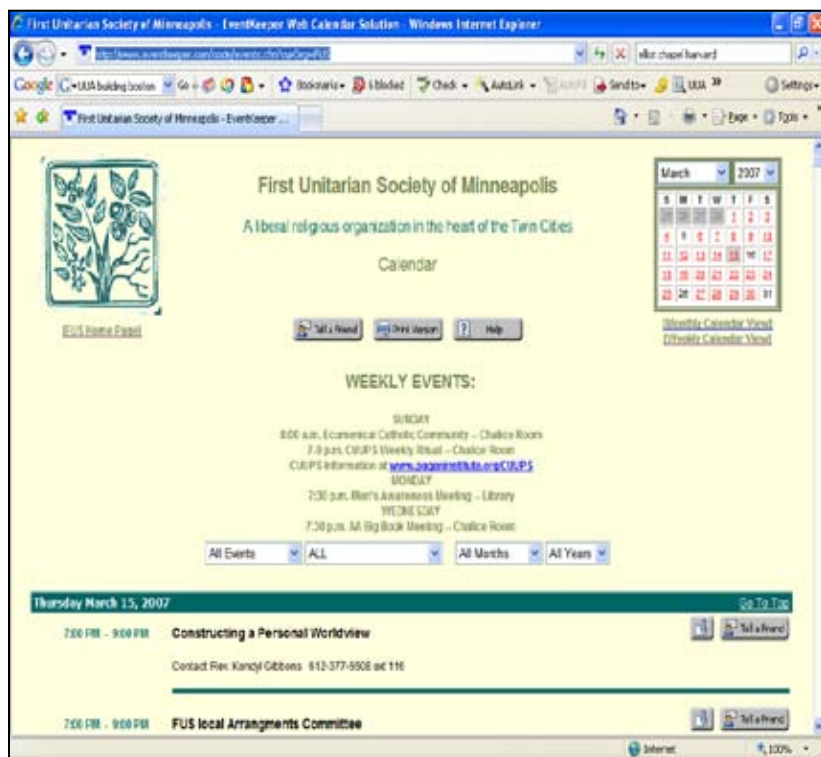
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December 2007



For an up-to-date listing of events at FUS, check the calendar online at the FUS website.

1. Go to www.firstunitariansociety.org
2. Click on "Calendar" on the left menu bar.

If you do not have access to the web, contact the FUS Office at 612-377-6608 for event information.

