Hope

Each month worship, religious education, community outreach ministry, covenant groups and Wellspring Wednesday programs will offer opportunities to contemplate, consider, contend with and discuss an intergenerational curriculum based on monthly themes. Our hope is that this approach will bind us more closely together and inform our lives in effective and positive ways. May's theme is...Hope

"Do not depend on the hope of results," Thomas Merton said in his letter to a young activist who was suffering from despair.

Truth be told, whether in our work for social change or in our personal lives, most of us have pinned our hopes to results or particular outcomes at one point or another. But the times when we most need hope are often occasions when the expected outcomes are guite bleak. Perhaps we face a serious illness or an irretrievable loss. Perhaps we're working to uproot an oppression established over centuries or seeking a reconciliation that is stubbornly resisted. In situations like these, any hope riding a horse named Results might not make it to the finish line. So, how - and where do we find hope then?

"Hope is a state of mind, not of the world," claimed Vaclav Havel. Writing from a Czechoslovakian prison cell, he said, "(T)he deepest and most important form of hope, the only one that can keep us above water and urge us to good works, and the only true source of the breathtaking dimension of the human spirit and its efforts, is something we get, as if from 'elsewhere.'"

This hope that comes to us from "elsewhere" might be from another person, from nature or from our ultimate source of meaning that some name as God. It might come from our life's work or our community. However we find and name that "elsewhere," the gift of true hope comes from turning our gaze toward a horizon wider than our own backyard. And whether our prisons are made of cement blocks, as

Havel's was, or with the less visible bars of alienation and isolation, hope is about finding ourselves in a larger frame and awakening to what is beyond our personal periphery.

"Try to focus your attention on the space above your head and below your feet," I was recently instructed by Wang Maohua (王茂华), a Tai Chi master from Beijing. "Extend your awareness to the space beyond your fingers," he said. Gradually my monkey mind let go of its aimless grip as Master Wang led me in a meditative journey through my body, awakening me first to the space within my body and then beyond it. "Now," he said patiently, as I launched myself through the first few Tai Chi forms, "try not to move by pushing your body. Instead, let your body move by a 'gentle intention' into the space around it where your awareness is waiting to meet it."

Hope, it occurs to me, involves this practice of "gentle intention." It is not satisfied with the way things are but leans toward a new possibility not in evidence around us but one already inhabited by our awareness. Hope is forward-leaning, says writer Julie Neraas, and "biblically speaking, is never equated with the status quo." It takes full stock of where we are now and then casts our awareness and imagination out beyond. It lifts our eyes and beckons us to new horizons.

This is not the same as optimism, false or otherwise, but it is tied to survival. "(H)ope is no shining thing," the poet Mark Doty tells us, recounting the story of his partner's death from AIDS, "but a kind of sustenance, plain as bread, the

ordinary thing that feeds us."

Hope is the leavened sustenance of our souls carrying us from one day to the next, no matter what comes our way. It is what remained at the bottom of Pandora's Box after the chaos escaped into the world. It is what lifts our eyes from the prisons that separate us from one another and toward a better, more just future.

"You start more and more," Merton's letter to the young activist continues, "to concentrate not on the results but on the value, the righteousness, the truth of the work itself."

Such is the horizon of hope, where a new day is already dawning.

Karen Hering Consulting Literary Minister

Worship Theme Resources

BOOKS

Apprenticed to Hope, by Julie Neraas

The Impossible Will Take a Little While: a citizen's guide to hope in a time of fear, a timely and honest anthology of hope, edited by Paul Rogat Loeb.

An Interrupted Life and Letters from Westerbork, by Etty Hillesum, the diary and letters of a vibrant, articulate and artistic young woman writing in Nazi occupied Amsterdam.

JUST WORDS

Just Words

On a recent Sunday in April, I had the distinct honor of joining Unity's Director of Religious Education Kerri Meyer in conducting a service intended to introduce first to sixth grade children to how we mourn the deaths and celebrate the lives of beloved friends and family. The service was offered three times in the quiet beauty of the newly refurbished Ames Chapel. As the children arrived, accompanied by a parent or other caring adult, they were invited to light a candle. Soon a long line stretched across the room beneath the Martin of Tours window as they waited to light one of the votive candles in the niche on the north wall. Just by standing in that line our children began to learn an essential lesson about the universality of loss.

The service is part of a six-week series on grief which occurs every three years as an integral part of "Journey In: Toward the God-Shaped Hollow," our curriculum for grade school children. The service is beautifully designed to provide the framework of a generic memorial service, introduce families to a variety of funeral traditions and foster respect for religious diversity. The liturgy observes the need to establish a rhythm of words and song and silence. The three brief homilies focus on how we mourn, how we remember, and how we feel. Though no particular person is being memorialized, tears are shed, loved ones remembered, important lessons learned.

Taking part in these three "mock" memorial services revitalized my awareness of how vital religious education can be, not only for our children but also for those of us whose lives they touch, parents and grandparents, grown-up friends and yes, teachers, especially teachers. On Sunday, May 16, Kerri Meyer will be delivering the sermon. I urge you to be there. Not only because Kerri is an utterly engaging preacher but also to acknowledge the transformative ministry that teaching can be. Religious Education enrollment for the fall is already underway. Parents are required to volunteer in order to register their children. Many of them will choose to teach. But why should they carry more than their share.

The children of the church are a blessing to us all. Their religious formation should be of concern to each and all of us. I'm so grateful to have had a glimpse into the depth and intentionality of our ministry with children and youth. As spring takes hold among us I invite us all to find a way to make ourselves useful in fostering the spiritual well-being of the children and youth of our beloved congregation.

Yours,

Rob Eller-Isaacs

For further information about volunteer opportunities in religious education contact Kerri Meyer at kerri@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x104.

Flowers for Summer Worship

If you would like to bring flowers from your garden for a 10 a.m. summer worship service, please contact Julie at the Church Office at julieh@unityunitarian.org. The available dates are May 31 through September 5, except for August 1. The flowers need to be arranged in a vase and placed in the chancel by 9:15 a.m. on the Sunday you select.

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Everett Forest Capelle

born March 3, 2010 son of Holly and Tim Capelle

Maia Rose Wittrock

born March 27, 2010 daughter of Lindsay and Jeff Wittrock

In Memoriam

Thomas T. Feeney, Jr.
September 14, 1924 – April 1, 2010

Kathleen "Katy" Dawkins Gray October 22, 1942 – April 10, 2010

Memorial Day Weekend

The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

Beginning Sunday, May 30, and continuing throughout the summer, Sunday services will be held each week at 10:00 a.m.



commUNITY is the newsletter of Unity Church-Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 14th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30 per year.

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MAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Beginning Sunday, May 30, and continuing throughout the summer, Sunday services will be held each week at 10:00 a.m. Sunday services are held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. except where noted.

Sermon podcasts and archives are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

Worship Calendar

May 2

Arthur Foote Music Sunday

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

Voices

presented by Unity Choir and Unity Singers; Karen Hering, poetry and readings

4:30 p.m. service

Voices

presented by Taichi Chen, violin, and Ruth Palmer, piano; Karen Hering, poetry and readings

May 9

A Larger Hope — Rob Eller-Isaacs

Our Universalist forbearers used the phrase "our larger hope" to refer to their belief in universal salvation. How many of us have come to know God's love because our mothers have given us the kind of love "we did not earn and cannot buy," a love that is so very much like grace. Poet farmer Wendell Berry counsels, "Ask yourself: Will this satisfy a woman satisfied to bear a child? Will this disturb the sleep of a woman close to giving birth?" Rob will be joined by Worship Associate Mary Baremore for a service on hope and motherhood.

May 16 A Quiver Full — Kerri Meyer

As we express our gratitude to the volunteer Religious Education teachers who have made our Ministry with Children and Youth a reality, worship leader and Director of Religious Education, Kerri Meyer, will pause to reflect on the causes and the consequences of R.E.'s growth in both enrollment and commitment. We wrestle with crowded Sunday School classrooms, but can we actually ever have "too many kids"? As the psalmist sang, our quiver is full. Now where shall we aim our bow?

May 23

Our Sure Blossoming

Come celebrate the affirming, uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual of Flower Communion. Developed by Czech Unitarian minister, Norbert Capek who died a martyr at Dachau, the ritual celebrates the intrinsic beauty of each and every soul. **BRING A FLOWER FOR THE ARCH.** This is a celebration for the entire church family. Each service will include a dedication ceremony for older children.

May 30 • One Service at 10:00 a.m.

For Peace and a New Hope — Rob Eller-Isaacs

Archibald MacLeish asks, "Whether our lives and deaths were for peace and a new hope of for nothing we cannot say; it is you who must say this." Each year on the day before Memorial Day, we invite the congregation to honor those who have died and those whose lives have been forever changed by war. Rob and Worship Associate Steve Harper will offer a poignant, powerful service to close our series on *Hope*.

Flower Communion Sunday, May 23



Please bring a flower for the arch.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

New Trustee Named

The Board of Trustees voted Rob Fulton in to fill a vacated seat. Dan Zigmund stepped down from his seat in March. On behalf of the board, I want to thank Dan for his service. We are delighted to have Rob join us and we look forward to bringing his vision and leadership to the Board.

- Laura Smidzik, Board Chair

Unity Church-Unitarian 2010 Annual Congregational Survey!

Fill out the 2010 Annual Survey online (beginning May 2).
Follow the link at www.unityunitarian.org.

Please let us know what you think about the church, its community, and how we live out our values.

Paper copies of the survey are also available at the Holly Avenue reception desk.

Your response counts!

Please complete the survey by Sunday, May 30. Thank you!

Board of Trustees

From Craig Allen, Trustee

One Wednesday this past month, after the usual Wellspring dinner, I saw the Arthur Foote room packed to capacity and beyond. People sat in halls trying to hear speakers Lorelee Wederstrom and Laura Park. The topic that had drawn such interest? Unity Tomorrow and the future of our church facilities.

I had the privilege of attending this first of four such meetings as an observer. Each Board member has agreed to observe one or more of these meetings, in part to show our endorsement of the process. But we also go to learn directly about the comments, hopes, and concerns that this big decision elicits in the members of Unity. And we go because it is an *energizing* experience. In that packed room I saw careful attention paid to every word of the presentations. I heard small groups discuss with respectful passion (sometimes with near-strangers) what they wanted to preserve in their Unity experience, what they wanted to change, and what risks they were willing to take. Finally I stood as they gathered again to share their insights with the larger group in good humor and in all seriousness. To see such a large group of people all wholly engaged in directing the future of the church to which they are committed is inherently vitalizing. Most who attended left deep in contemplation about all the ideas that had been raised.

Of course it was not lost on many who attended that the too-crowded room only reinforced the point of undertaking this process: the need to re-think our facilities and site. While we met in the Foote room, religious education registration was occupying the Sanctuary and the children were playing among the dinner tables in the Parish Hall. We want to capture everyone's input and allow all voices, as well as the counsel from our Executive Team and the expertise of the Unity Tomorrow Team, to inform this process. We appreciate the time and passion each member has brought to this ongoing discussion that will affect all of our lives.

The Board of Trustees invites you to a morning of rich learning and conversation with **Stefan lonasson**

the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Director for Large Congregations

For the future from the past, built to change built to last — from a song by Fred Small

Saturday, May 8 • 9:00 a.m. to Noon Unity Church-Unitarian in the Foote Room Light refreshments will be served

Join us as we gather for reflection and conversation about Unity Church's history including our trends and growth. What should we expect and plan for as a vibrant congregation?

"I heard Stefan several years ago at a UUA conference. He is deeply connected to Unity Church and brings a national perspective coupled with humor and wisdom. I hope you can join us for this lively conversation. You are sure to feel re-inspired and refreshed." ~ Laura Smidzik, Board Chair

Please RSVP to Julie Handberg at julieh@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x110 by Monday, May 3. Please contact Christy Randall at christy@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x127 by May 3 to reserve childcare.

PLEDGE TEAM / HERITAGE SOCIETY

From This House, To The World

from Chris Crosby-Schmidt, Pledge Team

At the beginning of April, Ruth Palmer passed on an unusual request to the Unity Singers. Katy Gray was in the final days of her life, and Rob and Janne asked if we might go sing for her at her home. We wouldn't normally make such a visit, but because of Katy's and her husband Bill's long, deep relationship with Unity, Rob and Janne felt it would be appropriate. They don't ask us often, so we knew it was something special.

On Tuesday, April 6, we rehearsed a few numbers from our repertoire and went over to Katy's house. All sixteen of us, plus Ruth and Janne, crowded around her bed in her basement bedroom, where she lay holding Bill's hand. We did our best to sing without dissolving into tears; to enfold Katy and Bill in an embrace of song; and to show them with music that they were loved, and were not alone.

It seemed to me that Katy drifted in and out as we sang. Her eyes rested on several of us, but I honestly don't know how much she registered. Bill's reaction, though, was unmistakable: he was clearly moved. And as we left the house, I found myself thinking about what a gift it was to us singers to be able to provide this comfort. I felt my own individual contribution was amplified enormously by joining with my fellow singers, to make us all more potent together. And I had a strong sense that we were taking care of our own. I don't usually use words like "ministry," but that was exactly what it felt like.

Unity is made up of these matryoshka-like ministries, little ones nested within larger ones. Individuals work alone, join with others to form the numerous teams and groups, and finally come together as one large community. Often, like when we sang for Katy, there's a smaller, more personal blessing hidden inside larger work. At all levels, we work together as a family in this house we call Unity Church Unitarian, nurturing and strengthening those within it so that we may better the world outside it.

All this was percolating in my mind when the Pledge Team met a few days later to begin work on the fall pledge drive. We chose "From this house, to the world" as our theme this year. It connotes and conveys so much of what we feel about Unity as our spiritual home: The sense of safety and comfort; the sustenance — physical, social, and spiritual — that we find here; the conviction that every individual takes part in tending to the well-being of the house. We care for those within the house, we open the house to welcome others in, and we take the values we nurture out into the world.

Again this year, we'll be asking for canvassers to go out and visit every household. We will also ask you to welcome a canvass visit, whether in your home, here at the church, at a coffee shop, or wherever. We hope that whatever your role, you view both the conversations that follow and the act of supporting the church financially as part of your own personal ministry – one of the many stones that make this house.

Katy Gray passed away four days after we sang for her. I'll never know what she received from our singing, but I know what she and Bill gave to me. I have a much greater awareness of the roles I play in our church community, both as an individual and as part of larger groups. And it's all connected, in that messy, organic way that everything we do is connected. For those connections, and for that awareness, and for that opportunity, I am grateful.

Join the Heritage Society Leave a Legacy for Future Generations

Planned giving is an intentional act that leaves a lasting legacy in your name and sustains the powerful work of this church for generations to come.

A planned gift is a designation from your estate to a charitable organization. Your "estate" is the sum of your assets, including property you own, insurance policies, retirement accounts, cash on hand, etc.

There are many gift possibilities. These gifts allows flexibility, though some requirements apply, and you always retain the right to amend your estate.

- A charitable bequest in your last will and testament can be a specific amount or a percentage of what remains after providing for your heirs.
- A life insurance designation names Unity Church as owner or beneficiary of the policy.
- Retirement plan assets name the church as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), profit sharing or other retirement plan.
- Other types of planned gifts include gift annuities, life-estate agreements and charitable remainder trusts.

By making a planned gift to Unity Church, you would be joining almost 200 others who have committed to supporting our programs and outreach into the future. Our annual Heritage Society Dinner on Friday, May 14, is the church's way of thanking those individuals who have made planned gifts. Peter Hutchinson, President of the Bush Foundation, will be our guest speaker.

If you have already made a planned gift to Unity Church (but haven't told us!), if you are in the process of making a planned gift, or if you would like more information about planned gift possibilities, contact Barbara Hubbard at the Church Office.

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Part 3 of Unitarian Universalist History

20th Century American Unitarian Universalism and Beyond (1900-present) Tuesday Evenings, May 4, 11, 18 • 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Robbins Parlor)

Unitarian Universalist history is a fascinating tapestry of living history and tradition. Join Hallman Ministerial Intern Lissa Gundlach for the third of a three-part series exploring the history of our two faith traditions as they merged into Unitarian Universalism in 1961 and grew into the faith we practice today. Add your own history to the living tradition. All ages welcome.

Please e-mail lissa@unityunitarian.org or call 651-228-1456 x129 to reserve a space in the class and a reading packet! Readings are available online for those who would like to follow along but are not able to attend.

Guided Meditation in Ames Chapel

Ongoing Tuesday Evenings • 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Buddhist meditation is a centuries old spiritual practice that can bring greater awareness, clarity and peace to our lives. Join Lissa Gundlach for a weekly guided meditation in the Ames Chapel. Each week we will briefly listen to teachings, practice sitting and walking meditation, and support one another in our developing practice. Come every week or drop in. All ages and levels of experience welcome.

Ames Chapel Open for Spiritual Practices

Ames Chapel will be open specifically for self-directed spiritual practices, such as meditation, prayer, contemplation or writing.

- Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Fridays 7:30–9:00 a.m. and 1:00–2:30 p.m.

"Present Moment, Wonderful Moment!"

Two Retreat Opportunities for Deepening Meditation Practice at Unity Church

Saturday, May 15 • 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Exploring Meditation with Ken Ford from Clouds In Water Zen Center in St. Paul and Lissa Gundlach, Hallman Ministerial Intern

Saturday, June 12 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Mindfulness Meditation with Mark Nunberg from the Common Ground Meditation Center in Minneapolis

Join Unity's growing community of meditation practice with two special opportunities to find peaceful refuge from the distractions of daily life in a meditation retreat. Begin and grow your meditation practice in a warm and supportive community. Retreats include sitting and walking meditation, guided movement, talks on spiritual practice, and time for questions and discussion. All ages and levels of experience welcome. Bring a bag lunch for a community meal, a water bottle and your favorite mug for tea. Snack will be provided. Suggested donation \$20.00 for each retreat. Contact Lissa (lissa@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456 x129) to register.

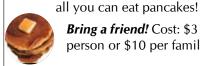
Caregivers Group

Thursday, May 20 • Third Thursday of every month • Noon-2:00 p.m.

Are you a part-time or full-time caretaker of loved ones in your life? Do you need support in order to sustain the care you are giving? Join Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and Pastoral Care Team member Cynthia Orange for an an informal support group for caregivers. Contact Janne Eller-Isaacs if you would like to participate in this group.

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, May 8 • 8:30-10:00 a.m. You'll enjoy local sausage, OI, and



Bring a friend! Cost: \$3 per person or \$10 per family.

May Group Meetings

All are invited to attend the following groups. For more information. contact the Church Office or the persons listed with each group.

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, May 3 and 17, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact: Phil Morton at 952-934-3578

Unity Singles Group

Watch This Week at Unity for events. Contact: Bonnie Reiland at bonniereiland@aol.com

A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Afterthoughts

Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. service. Contact: Paul Gade at 651-771-7528

Unitots!

A playgroup for families with kids through preschool age. Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

Grandparent Unitots!

A playgroup for grandparents and their grandkids. Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Sue Conner at 651-646-6667

Unity Bridge Club

First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Mary Barrett at 651-225-9708

Evergreen Quilt Group

Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

Unity Book Club

Tuesday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. Open to everyone!

Job Transition Networking Group

Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Contact: Wendy Frieze at wendyfrieze@mac.com

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Elders Circle Group

Friday, May 21 • 12:00-1:30 p.m.

The Elders Circle Group meets each month for fellowship, conversation and friendly community connections. This month, enjoy a potluck picnic lunch in the Parish Hall or outdoors depending on weather. Bring a salad, dessert, or side dish to share; sandwiches will be provided. The group is always welcome to newcomers as well as regular participants. Join Hallman Intern Lissa Gundlach for conversation about our lives and this month's worship theme, Hope. Please call Lissa if you need transportation.

Young Adult Meet and Greet

Brunch at Café Latte

Sunday, May 23 • 12:30 p.m.

Meet or continue to get to know some of the fabulous young adults (20s and 30s) at Unity Church. Meet at 12:30 in the Center Room and we'll walk to Café Latte for a low-key brunch together. Contact Luke Stevens-Royer at luke@unityunitarian.org for more information. Find the Unity Young Adult group on Facebook by searching for "Unity Young Adult Meet & Greet."

Pilgrimage to Transylvania

Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs will lead a pilgrimage to our Partner Church village Homorodszentpeter, Transylvania, from July 21 through August 3, 2010. Travel includes touring Budapest and Transylvania before arriving for a one-week stay in Homorodszentpeter. For more information or to reserve a space contact Tom Merritt at 651-429-2621 or tom.w.merritt@gmail.com.

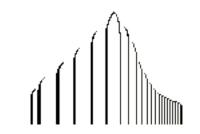
Heart to Heart: A Couples Enrichment Weekend

November 5-6-7, 2010

Heart to Heart is a program designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. This will be our 16th annual fall retreat. All couples committed to their partners and to their relationships are welcome — samesex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. Space is limited, so register early.

For more information, visit the Heart to Heart website at http://heart.mn.cx or call Laurel and Eric Lein at 651-227-0486.





Pathway to Membership at Unity Church

Welcome to Unity

This class is geared to newcomers, visitors, and those seeking to learn more about Unitarian Universalists and Unity Church. Upcoming Welcome to Unity class:

Wednesday, May 5 7:10 - 8:30 p.m.

Committing to Unity

Committing to Unity is designed for those who are ready to make the membership commitment. This class explores the deeper meanings and expectations of membership and shared ministry. Upcoming Committing to Unity classes:

Saturday, May 8 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Please note time change!**

New Member Celebration

New members will be welcomed and recognized by the congregation during worship on Sunday, May 9, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We hope you will participate in this celebration!

To sign up for a Pathway to Membership class or participate in the New Member Celebration, please contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Habitat for Humanity

After several years of no involvement, Unity Church will be participating in Habitat for Humanity this summer.

Unity's Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry Team is organizing this opportunity in partnership with a group of members of neighboring churches called Faith Builders. We will help with rehabilitation of a house on St. Paul's East Side during the last two weeks of June. There are opportunities in construction, and in providing support as the food committee. You may work one day or multiple days. Whatever your skill level, you can contribute to this important work in our community.

Monetary donations are also greatly needed. Habitat for Humanity uses these funds for property purchases and building materials.

To sign up, please visit the Affordable Housing team table in the Parish Hall after most services in May, or contact Chuck Griggs at griggscb@msn.com, or come to the next Affordable Housing Team meeting on May 2.



Project Home at Unity Church

from Paden Chang, Project Home Volunteer

I must have been eight the first time I volunteered for Project Home. My mom and I got to church around 5:00 p.m. and didn't have to wait long for a vanload of kids to arrive with their parents. Some of the kids were older and some were younger, but they were friendly and fun loving and I soon felt like one of the gang. After everyone unloaded their stuff in their sleeping rooms, it was off to the park across the street to play capture the flag. It must have been apparent that we were having a lot of fun, because we were soon joined by neighborhood kids and then the games really commenced. This sort of spontaneous group activity was a revelation to me. Growing up in the country, I was much more likely to stumble upon herds of deer or flocks of turkeys than a bunch of kids who didn't even know each other, happily playing in a park until dark. Needless to say, I was hooked on volunteering for Project Home.

As the years progressed, my volunteer evenings didn't always coincide with balmy park-going weather, but I began to understand that there was more to this activity than playing and having fun. In fact, there were concrete things I could do as a kid to make our guests more comfortable. I learned some important lessons along the way: follow the directions when making powdered lemonade (more is not always better), spills aren't a big deal if you know where the extra paper towels are hidden; no one ever died from eating crayons but try not to let them anyway, and babies' tears dry up really quick if you can get them to laugh. By the time I was in Tower Club, I was ready to take it to the next level.

Romeyn Taylor took a chance and let me join the Project Home steering committee (little did I know this wasn't the quite the honor it first appeared as this group never turns down willing helpers). It was a super leadership experience. In essence, I got to go behind the scenes and help with planning, volunteer recruiting and set-up and takedown. It's a big job to house these families for a month every year. I was happy to be part of all that because I'd known for some time what nice people stayed with us. Now that I'm in college, I can't be that close to the details, but I'm usually back in Minnesota in time to do a couple of shifts, mostly overnight because they're typically the last to fill up. I miss the hustle and bustle of the evening shifts (not to mention the capture the flag opportunities), but it's kind of cool to know that I'm now one of the adults responsible for getting our guests through another peaceful night downstairs and off to a new day and hopefully more and better opportunities than the one before.

It doesn't matter if you eight or eighty-eight, Project Home is a great volunteer gig. I hope you'll make the time and sign up, so you can get to know our guests too.

Project Home Volunteers Are Still Needed!

Contact Johanna Stammeier-Toole at unityprojecthome@gmail.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

What's Up?

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

from David Byfield (651-659-7563) and Marty Rossmann (612-624-3082), Unity Church UUSC Representatives

The UUSC motto is "Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands"

Haiti Support Effort

UUSC partnered with Haitian peasant organizations to address the immediate crisis. Now UUSC is developing a mid- and long-term response, including food sovereignty, women's and children's safety, and livelihoods for amputees. UUSC has brought trauma counselors and scientists who are developing alternative fuels to Haiti. UUSC is also helping Haitians in the U.S. to apply for Temporary Protect Status.

Summer Experiential Learning Trips

A family home in Minneapolis will be renovated the week before General Assembly (June 12-19.) This project is called Building Justice: A UUSC JustWorks Camp. A second trip takes participants in the footsteps of civil rights leaders on a journey through Alabama and Georgia (July 10-17).

These are intended to be journeys which last a week, with inspiration lasting a lifetime! The program registration fee includes lodging (required, even for locals, to live with the group), speakers, group leaders local transportation, and meals.

Members of Unity Church will be able to support the Minneapolis project by contributing to the Unity June 6th Sunday morning service offering. The offering will help to cover the \$6000 cost of the Habitat for Humanity building materials. A potluck dinner prepared by the Unity Church Affordable Housing team and other local UU Churches for those who participate in the JustWorks Camp is being planned, and help will be needed there, too. For more information about this potluck, please contact Marty or David.

Did You Know?

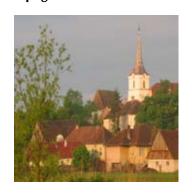
UUSC is financially independent from the UUA. Member contributions make up about 60 percent of UUSC's annual budget. UUSC focuses on RIGHTS in humanitarian crises, economic justice, civil liberties and environmental justice.

General Assembly + Twin Cities Pride = Save the Dates! from Ann Hite, Interweave Ministry Team Leader

Unity's Interweave Ministry Team (BGLT advocacy group) is organizing participation and volunteer opportunities for the combined General Assembly (GA) and Twin Cities Pride events during the last week of June. Several options for involvement include: attending the GA workshop on marriage equality, sponsored by UUs Out for Marriage (a working group of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance), on Thursday, June 24; attending the GA Public Witness event at noon in Loring Park at the Pride main stage on Saturday, June 26; and the Pride Parade, which steps off at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 27, downtown Minneapolis.

For more details please visit Interweave members at the table in the Parish Hall on May 16 or contact Ann Hite at amh1960@gmail.com. At the Parish Hall table, you will also be invited to participate in a contest to re-name our team. Thanks in advance for your creative ideas for a name that will make us recognizable as advocates for the Transgender, Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian community — in fewer than four words!

Partner Church Ministry Team Travel to Transylvania See page 7 for details!



Whole Farm Coop

Buy meat, cheese, produce and more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up at



Unity Church! For a May pick up, order from wholefarmcoop. com or call 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, May 12.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, May 19. Pay by sending a check with the invoice enclosed with your order to Whole Farm.

Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. All non-perishable food and household items are welcome and needed!

Donations can be brought anytime and should be placed in the barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances.



Suggested items for Sunday, May 16, are diapers and baby food.

MAY OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to the chosen community non-profit recipients. **Please make checks payable to Unity Church.**

If you would like to nominate a non-profit to receive the offering, application forms are available online at www.unityunitarian.org.

May 2

Family Place

The Family Place is a daytime center located in Saint Paul, providing intake and assessment services to homeless families with children. The center opens when the evening overflow church shelter closes and other drop-in shelters for single adults are not appropriate for children. Meals are offered three times a day, seven days a week. Families receive assistance in life skills, educational and vocational training; referrals to community resources and services and support for families to move into transitional housing or to maintain permanent housing. The Unity Church Evergreen and Affordable Housing Outreach Ministry teams support the work of Family Place. Our yearly Project Home shelter guests are also served by Family Place.

May 9

Chalice Camp

Chalice Camp is a Unitarian Universalist day camp at Unity Church for first through sixth graders. Chalice Camp is primarily attended by Unity's children and is staffed by youth from the church. Chalice Camp will be offered twice this summer. Chalice Camp I, our mainstay program, explores the Seven Principles, our religious history and the meaning of the flaming chalice. Chalice Camp II (new this year) is an exploration of our faith's history as a force against unfairness and unkindness with a focus on the civil rights movement in the U.S. Children and counselors alike spend the week learning through acting, art, games, conversation and music. The camp provides indoor and outdoor activities for children to learn about themselves and creates a multi-age community for learning and growing together. This offering will be used to give full and partial scholarships for children whose parents might not be able to afford camp.

May 16

Johnson High School Habitat for Humanity Team

"Get ready to make a difference and be changed in the process." These are the goals of Johnson High School's Habitat for Humanity trip to El Salvador, June 19-28, 2010. This team made up of 19 students and 4 adult volunteers, will be working with El Salvadorian volunteers, as well as the homeowners themselves to help these families achieve their dream of having a decent place to live and, thus move on to dealing with other aspects of their lives, knowing that housing is no longer a daily struggle. The first Johnson school trip was taken in 2008 to Guatemala and had many layers of meaning for the students that year. Perhaps it can be best understood by reading the simple words of one of this year's applicants: "I'm interested in being a part of Johnson's Habitat for Humanity team to El Salvador because I've known people who have done this and after it they are not the same. They seem to change somehow in a way that I want to become."

May 23

Unitarian Universalist Association

Association Sunday supports the Unitarian Universalist Association which represents 117,000 Unitarian Universalists in 560 congregations. Funds raised this year will be used for outreach for Unitarian Universalist ministers of color and the congregations they serve, and for grants to congregations for growth outreach projects.

May 30

Global Family Village

In Nepal today there are over 450 registered orphanages and 200 unregistered orphanages attempting to help well over 14,000 orphans, 5,000 street children and 40,000 children displaced, perhaps orphaned, and caught in that country's recently ended eleven-year civil war. Since 2007, Global Family Village (GFV) has helped to "deinstitutionalize" Nepal's orphanages, incorporating a more familial community inclusive care model, and signed an agreement to help the government of Nepal establish community centers for orphaned and abandoned children using this model. Other GFV projects have included training women to be "mothers" for traumatized children, donating medical equipment to clinics, providing funds for school latrines and school equipment to community centers. Unity member Buffy Burke is a volunteer board member and former Vice-Chair of GFV.

LITERARY MINISTRY / UNITY LIBRARIES

OPEN PAGE

reflecting with pens in hand

These guided writing sessions, led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, are invitations to the creative spirit, opportunities to correspond with "the still, small voice within." No writing experience necessary; only an empty page and an open heart and mind.

OPEN PAGE Writing Session Sunday, May 16 • 2:00–4:00 p.m. Reflection Topic: *Belonging*

"The bird belongs to the sky, even though it cannot sleep there; the egg belongs to the nest even though it will not stay there." To whom and to what do you belong? Join us for an exploration of the many forms and faces of belonging and the many ways we find it in our lives. Free. No registration required.

On-line literary resources

For more information about the *Faithful Words* literary ministry and additional writing programs offered in other locations, visit www.unityunitarian.org/WritingMinistry. Meditations offered on each month's worship theme are also available on-line at www.unityunitarian.org/MonthlyThemeResources. To receive periodic e-mail notifications of upcoming literary programs and invitations for member writings, contact Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org. These programs are supported by a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism and contributions from individual donors.

You've Enjoyed It. Now Contribute to It.

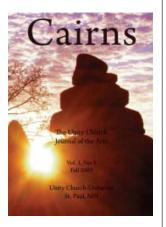
Cairns

Next Issue: Fall 2010

Submit up to six poems, two works of prose of 1500 words or less, and six works of art. Send to: literaryjournal@unityunitarian.org or drop in our mailbox in the Unity Church copy room.

Deadlines

For early consideration: May 17, 2010 Final deadline: September 20, 2010



Unity Church Book Club

The Unity Church Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11. The book they will be discussing is *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. **Everyone is welcome** — **even if you haven't read the book!**

Book for discussion on Tuesday, June 8: Misdemeanor Man by Dylan Schaffer



Unity Libraries Closing Its Doors?

It has come to the attention of the Executive Team that the number of overdue books in the Anderson Adult and Whitman Children's libraries is staggeringly high. Some new, gift and memorial books, CDs, and DVDs were checked out once or twice and never returned. Others are months or years overdue. A checked-out, new book even found its way in to our April High School Book Sale.

As a result...well, no, we are not really closing the libraries, but we do want to announce that May is Library Amnesty Month!

Please check your shelves, children's rooms, cars, offices, bathrooms, laundry hampers, and under the beds; in short, anywhere a book, CD, or DVD might possibly land. Then, return it to the Unity Library Book Return in the Anderson Library ASAP, or to any person in a ten-mile radius of Unity Church who is willing to return it for you.

Clemency will be granted for all overdues, no matter how long overdue, and for all lost books, CDs, or DVDs. Please DO report any and all lost materials, so the library can clear your record and consider replacement.

It is oft said that returning library materials is a lot like flying. For as Leonardo da Vinci said, "Once you have tasted flight you will walk the earth with your eyes turned skywards, for there you have been and there you will long to return."

HALLMAN INTERN / ARLT



From Lissa Gundlach Hallman Ministerial Intern

As a child growing up in Unitarian Universalist congregations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, I learned about the landscape of our faith from a pretty narrow, Northeast North American perspective. As a ten year old I wore my mother's

kelly green "Famous Unitarian Universalists" sweatshirt and pored proudly over the names of writers and activists from New England. I didn't know there were Unitarian Universalists in South Carolina (where I was born and lived the first few years of my life), let alone all over the world.

My understanding of Unitarian Universalism as a world-wide faith began around my middle teenage years, when I was very involved in the youth group at First Parish in Concord. It was then I first learned about our partner church in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, and its minister Rev. József Szombaltfalvi through a visit from his teenaged daughter, Zsuzsanna.

Zsuzsanna stayed with my family and several other families from the church. We were the same age and around the same height...both tall and growing into ourselves as young women. We connected about school, life and what it was like to be the minister's daughter. We shared meals and laughter. I was shy about reaching across our very different lives. I wondered if I'd ever get a chance to experience what life was like in Transylvania, ever get to see the places she described.

A few years ago, more than ten years after Zsuzsanna's visit, I stopped by to see First Parish minister, the Reverend Gary Smith, on a spring break from seminary. Gary pointed out a photo book on his office coffee table. It was filled with images from one of his many trips to Transylvania—this one to celebrate the marriage of Zsuzsanna Szombaltfalvi. In the joyful pictures, I only barely recognized the woman I had met all those years ago.

While I'm not sure if I'll ever meet Zsuzsanna again and ask her all the questions I wish I'd been brave enough to ask when I was a teenager, I do have an amazing opportunity to visit her homeland and meet her fellow Unitarian brothers and sisters in villages like Homorod St. Peter. I am honored to have the opportunity to travel with the Unity Pilgrims to Unitarian holy sites in Transylvania this August. It is the pilgrimage of a lifetime for a Unitarian Universalist minister.

When Janne and I first began meeting for supervision, she asked me to consider my internship through the lens of pilgrimage, a sacred journey to a place or places of meaning. With the blessings of travel to Boston, New Orleans and now Transylvania, and all I have given and received in my ministry at Unity Church, internship as unfolding pilgrimage has more and more resonance to me. I practice ways of seeing and learning that a pilgrim needs be spontaneous and adapt to new experiences. Like the poet e.e. cummings writes: "now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened." I practice the virtues of patience, presence, and dare to take risks; I am humbled and awed by grace and hospitality. I am grateful for generous and compassionate companions and I welcome the stranger as I have been welcomed. As I near the end of one rich passage of this pilgrimage of life and look to what is next on the path, I thank you for walking with me.

ARLT

Antiracism Leadership Team

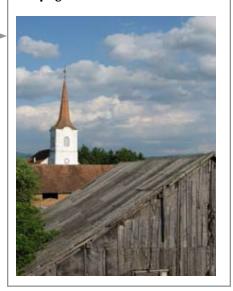
One member of the ARLT, Sarah Pradt, was able to attend the 11th Annual White Privilege Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin in April.

Sarah wrote:

"It was three wonderful days of thinking, talking, listening, and learning about the world as it is, broken and deformed by racism. It may seem strange to call the naming and pondering of terrible truths 'wonderful,' but it was also three days of imagining the world as it yet may be — laughing and learning about a present and an even better future in which compassion, love, and trust make healing, caring, and authentic connection not only possible, but the norm. And all this in the company of sixteen hundred loving people of all colors, young, old, students, professionals, teachers, community organizers, members of faith communities!"

Next April, the conference will be held in the Twin Cities, and there will be ample ways for people from Unity Church to participate.

Travel to Transylvania See page 7 for details!



MAY PARISH HALL ARTISTS

Cecilia Schiller Sculptor and Woodcarver

Sculptor and woodcarver Cecilia Schiller is pleased to be exhibiting her wood sculptures for the first time at Unity Unitarian. She'll have a variety of work, both sculptural and decorative, on display including: puppets, masks, carved boxes (also used as funerary urns), as well as her most recent work, whimsical, mechanical sculptures, also know as automata.

Cecilia spent much of her artistic career working magic behind the scenes by building costumes, props and set pieces for local theaters like the Guthrie, Children's Theater, Minnesota Opera and In the Heart of the Beast. She also spent several years as part of the creative team that builds and installs the Christmas and Flower Shows in Macy's Eighth Floor Auditorium in Minneapolis.

She began woodcarving in 1993 when she was looking for a more durable alternative to paper mache for her puppets and masks and quickly became enamored with the meditative process of woodcarving and the intoxicating beauty of wood itself.

She studied with master carver Konstantinos Papadakis in Minneapolis for several years, and in 2000 traveled to Bali, Indonesia, for three months of intensive study in the traditional Balinese style of sculptural woodcarving, where she learned to hold the wood in her feet and have both hands free for carving.

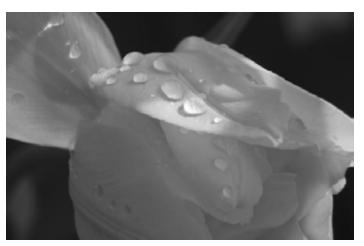
Her mechanical wooden sculptures combine both types of carving and build on her experiences in puppetry. Each

automaton has a crank which when turned causes the gears to move and in turn brings the sculpture to life. It's like a miniature puppet show.



Visit Cecilia's website at www.schillerwoodcarving.com to see more of her work or by appointment at her studio at 1720 Madison Avenue NE, Minneapolis. Cecilia can be reached at 651-757-8309.

Lorelee Wederstrom Images in Kairos



Landscapes, botanicals and macro images of nature at its finest have always nourished the artist's deep appreciation for visual beauty. This exhibit premieres a new expression of that beauty in a collection of digital photographs named Images in Kairos. While on assignment to "take a picture of the face of god," the Kairos images were captured by playfully painting with camera motion and shutter speed as well as light, color, and energy of the subject.

The Greeks teach us two meanings of the word "time." Chronos, or chronological time, is likely the most used or referenced meaning. We measure our lives by countless chronological time keepers such as days and years, events and rites of passage, family order and seasonal gatherings.

Quite differently, Kairos is about a moment within any one of those days, events, gatherings or years. And, Kairos most often refers to a very special moment....not just any moment.... where time does not exist in measurement. Kairos is the right or opportune moment. Some definitions refer to Kairos as "god's time."

Images in Kairos ask us to look for something new, something beautiful or something unexpected in each moment, in each image.

Call for Artists

If you or someone you know would like to be considered for the 2010-2011 Parish Hall art exhibit calendar please download an application from our website at www. unityunitarian.org. Applications are also available by contacting the Church Office.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Unity Tomorrow: Our Kids' Voices

On Sunday, May 9, the children of the church will engage in a dreaming session similar to the adult conversations held throughout the month of April. We'll use art, writing and video to record our contributions to the congregation's vision of Unity's next 50 years. This session will be held in the Ames Chapel for elementary schoolaged children at all three services. Journey Guides are requested to accompany their groups as usual.

Teacher Appreciation: Sunday, May 16

Our Religious Education teachers will be honored during worship and feted with a reception following worship on Sunday, May 10. All Sunday School teachers are warmly invited to attend worship and to be celebrated for their ministry. Parents, please consider helping your child write a thank you note to their Spirit Play teachers, Journey Guides, Workshop Teachers and Junior High teachers — Kerri is happy to remind you who your child's teachers have been this past year. May 16 is the last day of R.E. of the 2009-10 program year.

Dedication of Older Children: Sunday, May 23

On May 23, the annual litany of the Dedication of Older Children will be celebrated at all three services, offering a ritual of welcome and promise to families with children who have become part of our community after their infancy. The celebration involves each child processing up to the chancel on his or her own, speaking a litany aloud, and receiving a certificate and a chalice for the family. Children ages 4 and up will find this meaningful. Contact Kerri by May 9 if you would like your child to participate in this dedication.

Summer Sundays Begin Memorial Day Weekend!

Religious Education ends on May 16, but starting May 30 and continuing through the summer, children and adult volunteers will be in our Children's Garden during the 10:00 a.m. summer services.

This year, we'll be planting new beds of flowers and vegetables and we'll be sharing the fruits of our labor with a neighbor who receives services through the Summit/ University Living at Home organization housed here at Unity.

Registration is not necessary, but Safe Church ratios of adult volunteers to children will limit the number of kids we can take with us into the garden.

If you'd like to volunteer to help tend the garden between Sundays, contact Kerri in the Church Office.

Senior Bridging Ceremony: June 6

High school seniors are warmly invited to join us at 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, June 6, for our annual Bridging ceremony in which their achievements are honored and their plans for the future blessed and celebrated. Participants are also invited to a brunch at the ministers' home following worship. Check your postal mailbox for an invitation. Parents will also receive an invitation to a gathering for families sending their youth into the world. RSVP for the weekend's events by contacting Kerri at the Church Office.

Junior High Social Justice Youth Group

Wednesday, May 5 • 5:30−8:30 p.m. Project Home

Junior High Youth are needed to welcome families to Unity and to enjoy the park, read, or play games with the children. Meet in the Parish Hall at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a magazine and a personal care item (toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, etc.) to share. RSVP to Deborah McCoy at mcdeborah@msn.com or 651-695-8455. Check your e-mail for other exciting events in May.

Reminder!

Flower Communion is Sunday, May 23.

Remember to bring flowers for the arch!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent Orientation

Learn more about the year-long Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program for 7th, 8th or 9th graders starting this fall! OWL meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. as part of our Wellspring Wednesday programming; a concurrent parent group meets frequently.

Parent Orientations will be held:

Thursday, May 13 ● 7:00 p.m. in the Foote Room

Tuesday, May 18 ● 7:00 p.m. in the Center Room

Participation in one of the orientations is required for enrollment in OWL. Contact Luke Stevens-Royer at the Church Office with questions.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

from Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry

Regarding Music — Siv Cedering

If, some morning, you go out, stand still and watch the gathering light erasing the night,

Or in the evening, you stand on some border between land and sea and see the things of the earth fade out of view,

You know why Kepler spoke of musical spheres, for only an art dependent on duration can give voice to this continuous

flowing -

and what we are,

little notes on a simple staff but part of the music following the conductor's baton or the metronome's clicking.

I write this while in preparation for our annual Arthur Foote Music Sunday. I am awed at the tradition of music in our community and the way in which music helps us focus on ideas that are important to us:

*the way music gives us pause for moments of inarticulate reflection,

*brings us to our feet in joy,

*reminds us of the beauty before, behind, above and below us,

*and enables the reverence of moments that provide us strength to go from this house to the world.

As we all absorb into this season which invites us to "stand still and watch the gathering light," I send thanks and gratitude to a community which seeks and appreciates the beauty of the arts as part of what helps them walk through life with balance and integrity.



Songs of Springtime

Saturday, May 8 • 7:30 p.m.

Unity Church Sanctuary

Unity friends are invited to come and enjoy the unique harmonies of Eastern European vocal music. Discounted ticket price of \$5 for Unity Church members.

One Voice Mixed Chorus Presents...



June 4-5, 2010

Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Minneapolis

Visit ovmc.org for times and tickets.



Unity Walk-In Choir

June 13 is "Walk-In Choir" Sunday! Come and sing with members of the Unity Choir. Bring friends and family with you. Rehearsal in the Foote Room at 9:00 a.m.! Sing in our morning service at 10:00 a.m.!

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Laura Smidzik, Chair, Board of Trustees Janne Eller-Isaacs, Co-Minister Rob Eller-Isaacs, Co-Minister Barbara Hubbard, Executive Director Leon Dunkley, Director of Congregational Life

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Arthur Foote Music Sunday Weekend

Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2

Saturday, **May 1 ● 4:00 p.m.**

A concert in the Sanctuary at Unity Church given by Chicago Children's Choir, Minneapolis Youth Chorus, and Unity Children's Choir

Sunday, May 2 • 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Voices

presented by Unity Choir and Unity Singers; Karen Hering, poetry and readings

Sunday, May 2 • 4:30 p.m.

Voices

presented by Taichi Chen, violin, and Ruth Palmer, piano; Karen Hering, poetry and readings

Plan to come for at least one of these amazing Arthur Foote Music Sunday services, if not two or all of them!

The Board of Trustees invites you to a morning of learning and conversation with



Stefan Jonasson Unitarian Universalist Association's Director for Large Congregations Saturday, May 8

Get the details on page 4.

The Heritage Society Welcomes



Peter Hutchinson
President of the Bush Foundation

to its Annual Dinner on **Friday, May 14**

Become a Unity Church Heritage Society member — details on page 5.