



The Leaf

Aug/Sept 2006

The Newsletter of the First Universalist Church
of New Madison, Ohio, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday Services 10 AM

Aug. 6: Christel Brooks

Aug. 13: Richard Venus

Aug. 20: Richard Venus

Aug. 27: Donne Hayden

Sept. 3: NO SERVICE

Sept. 10: Richard Venus

**Sept. 17: Dave Hafenbrack—
Justice Sunday**

**Sept. 24: Richard Venus -
Service and Picnic in the
Greenville City Park**

Youth RE & Childcare
start at 10 AM

Upcoming Events

FISH Offering Sundays

Aug. 6 & Sept. 10

Board Meetings

Everyone is welcome
7 PM Aug. 29 & Sept. 26

**1st Thursday Theological
Society—revised format**

7 PM Sept. 7

**UU Class for New/Old
Members**

Oct. 1, after services

**Service and Picnic in
Greenville City Park**

Sept. 24, lawn chairs welcome

Annual Meeting – a Look Back and a Look Forward

Church members met for the annual meeting of the congregation on July 16, 2006. Just one year ago, the congregation voted to engage the Reverend Richard Venus as minister. Since then, the church has initiated adult and youth religious education, held a planning conference, raised funds for social action, and has seen a 12.4% increase in pledge amounts.

Committee and ministerial reports summarized operations during the year. Charles Godsey focused on efforts to care for our fine old church building and its grounds. Roberta Feltman reported for the Public Relations Committee, which has had a productive year. Janet Baker reported that the flower fund is in good shape financially while supporting members and friends during illness, grief, or during happier occasions such as holidays. Charles Godsey, Lloyd Ketring, Claire Brooks Williams, Janet and Kenny Baker, and others were cited for their remarkable contributions during the year.

Lloyd Ketring shared the proposed 2006-2007 budget. Once again, the annual budget reflects a deficit. The church expects to dip into its investments to cover normal expenses. In spite of concerns raised, the consensus is that the long-term solution lies in growing the church.

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Harvest Sounds—It's a Date!

The concert committee is happy to announce the annual benefit concert will be presented at The First Universalist Church, Sunday, Nov. 5 at 3:00. Proceeds will go to State of the Heart Home Health & Hospice, located at 1350 N. Broadway, Greenville, serving counties in Ohio and Indiana.

Simple Gifts Quartet will perform for this important church project. The quartet started performing in 1990, primarily gospel music. They now move comfortably from one end of the spectrum to the other, from bluegrass to the Beach Boys and beyond. Quartet members are Dale Musser, Carlton Jones, Tom Menke, and Joseph Helfrich. You will remember Joseph as an artist at the Nov. 2003 concert which benefited Habitat for Humanity.

Planning for the concert has 'only just begun,' so watch the next Leaf for more news about this exciting event!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Dave Feltman
- 7 Wyatt Ketring
- 10 Jeanette Burns
- 15 Rachel Buccicone
- 18 Joe Lipps
- 23 Byron Rutan
- 26 Jan Price
- 27 Richard Venus
- 29 Vicki McMahon



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

- 5 John & Sue Searls
- 19 Wells & Mary Behee
- 25 Fred & Margaret Meyer
- 30 Mike & Margaret Buccicone

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 4 Ellen Teller
- 5 Laura Moeckel Willis
- 6 Louie Leedle
- 7 Della Cassity
- 8 Dennis Burns
- 11 Paul Britner
- 15 Barbara Burns
- 18 Bill Burkett
- 18 Lori Lucas

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 5 Craig & LuAnn Dubbs
- 5 Janet & Roger Cassity
- 23 Jon & Tammy Ketring

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Annual meeting also provided an opportunity to look forward to coming events: Social Justice Sunday on September 17th, Sunday services and family picnic in Greenville Park on September 24th, a new/old members class on October 1st and our fall benefit concert on November 5th.

Election of officers and board members completed the annual meeting agenda. Officers will be: Christel Brooks, President; Lloyd Ketring, Treasurer; and Dick Brooks, Secretary. Linda Searls and Chas Godsey were elected to fill three year terms on the board of directors.

Thanks to all who made this a productive and energizing year. And let's enjoy the year ahead.

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