

JUL/AUG
2011

THE LEAF

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

RICHARD'S REFLECTIONS — *from Rev. Richard Venus*

On June 19th our church welcomed nine new members. It was a memorable and exciting day. Those we welcomed are noted elsewhere in this issue of *The Leaf*. I want to include here some of what I said as part of our morning worship.

"I suspect some of you (and certainly I have for a number of years) thought of us as a dying Congregation. We have often based our planning, our programming, our budgeting and our giving on the notion that we don't have more than a few years remaining as a viable church.

"Today I invite us to a new way of thinking. I would like us to stop thinking of ourselves as a dying church, but rather as a renewing and growing church. We have those who have joined us today to thank. They represent the future, which says we are a growing and vital church. For many years we have been saying we have to be cautious about our hopes and dreams. We can now begin to say we are optimistic about what lies ahead. It is true that we are few in number and we didn't grow in large numbers today, but we can grow in our understanding of who we are and what we wish to become.

"Of course we might not succeed, but we will continue – as we have in the past – to be a social-justice-serving, generous, giving Congregation with the future not bleak but with promise.

"I thank you who have signed the membership book and who are officially joining us today. You are giving us a way of thinking about our future, a future that says we can be proud of this place that has served the community and the larger world for 160 years, and will do so for many more years to come."

I realize that these words are wrought with optimism, but I believe in what I said. I would add that if we remain a small Congregation, that is not a dishonorable thing. We Unitarian Universalists are relatively few in number and our recent General Assembly reported that our membership is in decline. That does not equal, however, irrelevance. In the midst of the current political rhetoric coming from those aspiring to the presidency, our voices are needed even more than ever. We do have insights and ways of living that speak to a better tomorrow, rather than what too many politicians have to offer. We stand for the worth and dignity of every human being, not just the privileged and wealthy. We can be proud of all we are and will continue to be. Even though we may not be the biggest, we stand for integrity – not expediency – and that is an honorable place to be.

Richard V.

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

JUL 3 Richard Venus
[TBA]

JUL 10 Richard Venus
*Wouldn't You Rather
Be Somewhere Else?*

JUL 17 Lonnie Valentine
*Just War vs.
Just Peacemaking*

JUL 24 Derek Parker

JUL 31 Richard Venus
[TBA]

AUG 7 Nancy Bowen

AUG 14 Richard Venus
[TBA]

AUG 21 Derek Parker

AUG 28 John Graham

UPCOMING EVENTS

FISH Offering Sundays
Jul. 3 and Aug. 7.

Food 'n' Friendship
Jul. 3 and Aug. 7, lunch
at Fort Black Buffet.

Congregational Meeting
July 10 following Service.

Board Meeting
Aug. 16, 7 p.m. at the church.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

The President

I would like to thank the Congregation for their involvement in our annual meeting.

We have a few changes in our Board – Dede Wissman as a 3-year Director and Julie Mancy as our new Secretary. By a majority of votes we decided to pay \$750 to the National Association. Richard received a 3% raise in his salary. The Budget was passed and the Committees gave their reports.

Outreach will be on hold for another year due to the financial program we have set up.

The Capital Fund Drive looks to be set for the next three years.

Our Fall Concert is ready to go.

See you on Sunday! Thanks —
— Fred Meyer

The Treasurer

Capital Fund Drive

In May, a letter was sent to Members and Friends of First Universalist Church to launch a 3-year Capital Fund Drive.

It had been brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees that the bell tower of our church is in need of substantial structural repair. In March of this year an inspection of the north side of the bell tower was performed by our Building and Grounds Chair,

Chas Godsey, and local masonry contractor Randy Byrd.

While on the roof behind the bell tower, they observed many deteriorated masonry joints resulting in numerous loose bricks in the facade and deep cracks that go through to the interior walls. The north side of the tower is the only remaining surface that is still open to the weather. In Mr. Byrd's estimation, doing nothing will ultimately result in the collapse of the bell tower, creating major damage to the surrounding roof.

The Board of Trustees has voted to proceed with the repair of the bell tower, accepting Randy Byrd's quote of \$4,844.00. The Congregation was also given a chance to vote on this proposal, and it was passed.

The purpose of the Capital Fund Drive is to cover the cost of these – and future – major repairs. It was hoped that the Fund Drive would generate \$10,000 over a three year period that began June 1, 2011. On average, this sum translates to \$12 per month per member.

Through June 30, 2011 we have collected \$2801.00 for the Capital Fund. Add to that the balance we

were carrying in the fund previously of \$512.50, that gives us a balance of \$3313.50. We should have no trouble meeting the requirements of the bell tower repairs estimated at \$4844.00.

I am happy with the response from the Congregation. I think we are off to a good start. I did not receive responses from everyone but I will consider the drive a success by being able to pay for the repairs on the bell tower.

—Lloyd Ketring

The Leaf Editor

Getting Back on Track

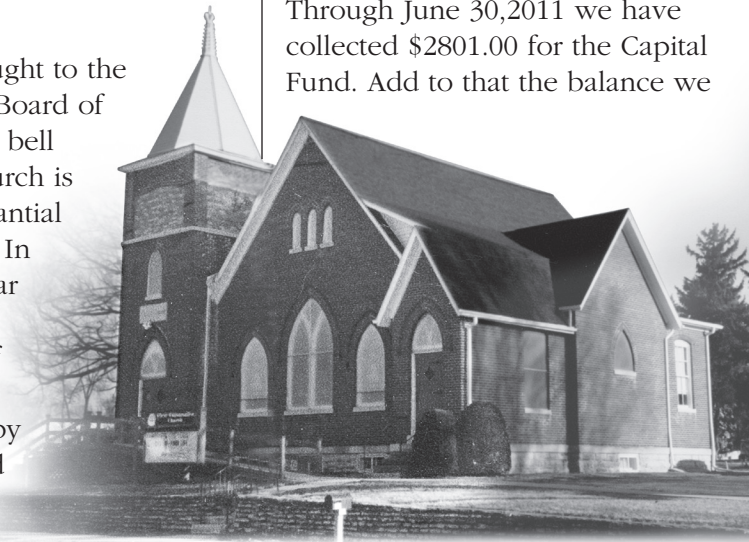
You all have probably noticed that you did not receive a May/June issue of *The Leaf*. As many of you know, I've been consumed with the ordeal of family illness since November which resulted in the death of my mother on May 3. I appreciate all the kind words from so many of you. It may take some time, but I'm trying to get issues of *The Leaf* back on track and in your hands in a timely manner. I appreciate your understanding, and all the help you've given me (and will give me in the future) with articles. See page 7 for due dates for the next issue's articles.

— Margaret Schryver

Outreach Committee

Recycled Greeting Card Program

On March 2, 2011, Dave Feltman mailed 685 all-occasion greeting cards that First Universalist collected to the St. Jude's Recycled Card Program. We normally send in these cards at the end of



February, since some people want to keep their Christmas cards longer. The Recycled Card Program runs year-round. St. Jude's currently has an increased need for both birthday and thank you card submissions. Also, they cannot accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greetings cards due to copyright restrictions.

Outreach Funds Now Available

The Outreach Fund was a casualty of the depressed economy, and all of our money was depleted during the recent past. However, due to investment income in 2010-2011, there is currently a \$228 balance in Outreach Funds. Any submissions for the use of this money are welcomed and encouraged!

— Margaret Schryver

Music Committee

Thank You, New Flutist

Our Sunday Services have not lacked the sweet sounds of the flute as part of First Universalist's Trio during Margaret Schryver's absence while she tended her sick Mother. We are grateful to Shay Mutter who shared her considerable talents as a flutist with us when she was in Ohio and visiting our church. She is always welcome to join in our music. Shay is the daughter of Cecil Mae Beers.

— Roberta Feltman

Harvest Sounds Committee

2011 — Eleventh Benefit Concert

Another exciting HARVEST SOUNDS program will be presented on Sunday, November 6, 3:00 at First

Universalist Church. Chosen to be this year's beneficiary to receive 100% of the proceeds from the event is HOPE Foundation of Greenville (Helping Other People Excel). HOPE Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of Darke County by receiving, managing and distributing charitable gifts in areas such as education, the arts, social services, community projects, conservation and animal welfare. All grants are awarded in the Darke County area.

This year will see another year of performances by talented artists who donate their time and talents, making each concert an outstanding community event. Featured this year will be well-known Irish dancer, Drew Lovejoy, and Christel Brooks' brother Stuart Schlotterbeck, whose musical group performs in the Columbus area. Our own First Universalist Trio with Margaret Schryver, Lloyd Ketring and Roberta Feltman may decide to join the fun that day with their own brand of music.

Sixteen-year-old Drew Lovejoy is a World Champion of Irish Dance, having won the world championship in 2010; is the 2011 first runner up, and number one in his age group. He is the youngest North American male to achieve this goal, and first person of color in the world to win the championship. He has been dancing since the age of seven and is very proud to share his determination and passion for dance. On July 9 of this year he won the North American National Championship competition held in

Nashville, TN. He now holds the title of National Champion for both 2010 and 2011. First Universalist is proud to present this talented young man – the first dancer to grace our stage.

Christel Brooks is rightly proud of her brother Stu, who with his fellow musicians Dennis and Wanda, will present a program of eclectic music including popular, old-time, gospel, well-known, and well-liked numbers. Wanda is the Musical Director at her Catholic parish, and an amazing vocalist in her own right. You may remember Stuart presenting music at Chistel's mother-in-law's Memorial Service.

Adding to the service was Stu's vocal rendition of *The Wayfaring Stranger*. That number has already been requested for HARVEST SOUNDS! Playing a variety of instruments, along with the vocals, Stu, Dennis and Wanda will add a special touch to our eleventh benefit concert. We look forward to hearing this group who is popular and in much demand in the Columbus area.

Tickets for HARVEST SOUNDS will remain at \$8 (free to students through grade 12), and will be available from church members or at the door the day of performance. For advance information regarding HARVEST SOUNDS, please call 937-548-2480.

—Roberta Feltman



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Unitarian Universalists Meet in Charlotte, NC for Annual Meeting

The 2011 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) closed Sunday night, June 26, in Charlotte, NC. More than 4,000 people attended the annual meeting to tend to UUA business, gather in worship, celebrate the UUA's 50th anniversary, and bear public witness for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) equality in North Carolina.

Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- The adoption of a faith-based institutional commitment to ethical eating.
- Planning for General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix, AZ, as a special “Justice GA.”
- An interfaith rally against homophobia and transphobia attended by hundreds of Unitarian Universalists and other LGBT supporters, covered extensively by the media.
- Special collections for Mecklenburg Ministries and the UUA's Arizona Immigration Ministry.

—continued from page 4

1-YEAR TERM..... Charles Godsey
Paula Godsey

The meeting was then adjourned.

— *Linda Searls, Margaret Schryver*

- Celebrations and workshops in honor of UUA's 50th anniversary.
- The strengthening of interfaith alliances by welcoming speakers and guests including religious scholar/author Karen Armstrong, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf of the Cordoba House, and Rev. Kosho Niwano of Rissho Kosei-kai.



Delegates at GA 2011 approved a *Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating*, encouraging Unitarian Universalists to “eat ethically” by becoming aware of the ways that food choices affect personal health as well as the planet's health. The statement had been in the works for three years, and passed overwhelmingly.

Also discussed was the *Justice General Assembly* planned for Phoenix in 2012. A resolution passed last year calls upon the UUA to work with UU leaders in Arizona to transform the annual meeting into a special justice-centered event, sparked by Arizona's anti-immigrant law, SB1070. While Phoenix had been chosen as the location for GA 2012 long before SB1070, delegates decided a justice gathering would be a more effective response than boycotting the state.

On Friday, June 24, hundreds of marchers joined the *Standing on the Side of Love* campaign in uptown Charlotte for a powerful rally speaking out against homophobia and transphobia, with co-sponsors

Time Out Youth, the Human Rights Campaign, Faith in America, and Equality North Carolina. Attendees braved pouring rain to stand on the side of love with their LGBT friends, neighbors, and family, and were featured on multiple television stations and the front page of the Charlotte Observer.

Attendees celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of the UUA, created in 1961 as a result of the consolidation of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association. The 2011 General Assembly opening ceremony included appearances by four past and present UUA presidents: the Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz; the Rev. John A. Buehrens; the Rev. William G. Sinkford; and current president, the Rev. Peter Morales, and concluded with “birthday” cake for the thousands in attendance.

— *from UUA Report, June, 2011*



BY THE NUMBERS

Thanks to all of you for contributing a total of **\$925** to our Easter Offering. This is a \$405 increase over last year's total of **\$520**, in spite of the bad economy!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nine New Members!

Those officially welcomed as members to our church on Sunday, June 19th were Cecil Beers, Ken Beers, David Feltman, Roberta Feltman, Julie Mancy, Gordon Patty, Skip Rhodes, Thelma Ross, and Marcia Venus.

We are honored by your presence, we thank you for “signing the book,” and we look forward to all you will bring to us in the years ahead.

What Does It Mean to Be a “Member” or a “Friend” of First Universalist Church?

The Bylaws of First Universalist Church of New Madison define membership as “open to all who sympathize with the Church’s purposes and programs, regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, citizenship, marital status and mental or physical challenge. Any person who accepts the essential principles of the Unitarian Universalist faith as set forth by the Unitarian Universalist Association will become a member of the Church after signing the membership book.” In addition, those members 16 years or older have voting rights and are eligible to hold elective or appointive office and members will be encouraged to make a pledge supporting the work of the church.

I believe there should be an additional requirement: attendance at a membership orientation class led by the minister. It is important that those who sign the book have an understanding of Unitarian Universalist history and theology,

as well as what membership in our church requires.

Those wishing to be a “friend” of the church can determine how they wish to participate and support the church, and whether they wish to be included in the newsletter and other mailings. Under the bylaws, friends may be considered associate members who are allowed to serve on committees and the Board of Directors, but are not allowed to hold the office of president, secretary or treasurer.

— *Richard Venus*

UU Orientation Class

An orientation class was recently held following the service on May 22. Those in attendance were Dave and Roberta Feltman, Thelma Ross, Julie Mancy, Dolly Lewis, and Ken and Cecil Mae Beers.

I lead a discussion of UU history and theology. I began by noting that a religious liberal is one who is broad-minded, tolerant, generous, and allows intellectual honesty and liberty. Several UU churches use as their motto the words: “We are the church of the open heart, open eyes and open mind.” Some say this church is a liberal religious church where people find support on their spiritual journey.

The class continued with a discussion about early religious leaders who first wrote or lived Unitarian and Universalist principles long before those organizations existed. Such were the Arians who were persecuted under Emperor Constantine for believing that the nature of God,

Jesus and the Holy Spirit was not three persons in one, but in some way distinct beings. Therefore, the notion of Uni-tarian arose.

In 1401 the Polish priest Jan Hus was burned at the stake for stating that the bread and wine used in communion was not transubstantiated into Jesus’ body and blood. He was ordered to hold the communion cup in his hand while being tortured, but it was taken from him before he died. This symbolism is incorporated in the flaming chalice that is the center of the UU logo.



Many other religious leaders were discussed, including Michael Servitus, whose theology noting the oneness of God got him into trouble with the Protestant reformer John Calvin. Servitus was burned at the stake for his beliefs.

Later, John Murray (who had left England to begin a new life in colonial America) became the founder of many Universalist churches along the coastal cities of the new land. The first Unitarian Church with that name was founded by Joseph Priestly in Philadelphia in the year 1796.

Merger between the two churches began in the 1930s when religious education materials were worked on jointly. Merger was officially recognized in 1961 with the formation of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

There was also some discussion of how liberal religion allows a variety

CATCHING UP

of beliefs, and our Principles and Purposes note that our ideas and beliefs are drawn from a variety of sources including: direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life; words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love; wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life; Jewish and Christian teaching which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves; humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit; spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with rhythms of nature.

We also noted our mission statement that is printed in the bulletin each Sunday:

We are an inclusive, nurturing church community that empowers individuals of all ages to

- *celebrate life's diversities,*
- *explore spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth,*
- *live our commitment to social justice by applying ethical solutions to local and world problems.*

— *Richard Venus*

Memorial Day Remembrances

It is always sad to lose our loved ones and friends. We set aside our Memorial Day Service on May 29 to remember with fondness, love, and comforting thoughts those we have lost over the past year. Lovely music was provided by Lloyd Ketring during this year's service. A special CD recording was played during the reading of names. *Ashokan Farewell* by Jay Ungar was recorded by Margaret Schryver (flute) and Susan Harris (piano) on the evening of May 3 – the same day Margaret's mother passed away. Margaret dedicated the recording to her mother Rita Braeunig. It was also played at Rita's funeral Mass in Sandusky, Ohio on May 14.

WE REMEMBER...

- Sue Hudson
June 2010
- Fred Hendel
October 2010
- Wayne Wetzel
November 2010
Roberta Feltman's brother
- Rita Lucille Braeunig
May 2011
Margaret Schryver's mother
- Kathryn Turner
May 2011
Kathleen Turner's mother

ISSUE	ARTICLES DUE
SEPT/OCT	August 21
NOV/DEC	October 23

Send submissions to Margaret Schryver (mschryver@hafenbrack.com).

Don't Miss the September Picnic and Water Ceremony!

Our annual church picnic will be held on September 11 following the morning Service. This annual event always fills the stomach with delicious food, and the heart with warm fellowship. In case of rain, we will dine indoors.



What Is a Water Ceremony?

The Service on September 11 will include a Water Ceremony, acknowledging our travels during the past year. A Water Ceremony (sometimes called a Water Communion) was first used at a Unitarian Universalist worship service in the 1980s. Many UU Congregations now hold a Water Ceremony once a year, often at the beginning of the new church year (September). Members bring a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the Service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl that contains a portion of combined water from the year before. As the water is added, the person tells why this water is special to him/her. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. A portion of this combined water is frozen and stored throughout the year. The following year it is thawed, and the cycle begins again.

— *Richard Venus*

FLOWER COMMUNION

Flower Communion was held during our morning Service on June 19. This ceremony seems simple on the surface, but the actions have a powerful meaning behind them. Let's look at that...



History and Meaning

The Flower Communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time he had felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. The format had to be one that would not alienate any who had forsaken other religious traditions. The traditional Christian communion service with bread and wine was unacceptable to the members of his congregation because of their strong reaction against the Catholic faith. So he turned to the native beauty of the countryside for elements of a communion which would be genuine to them. This simple service was the result. It was such a success that it was held yearly just before the summer recess of the church.

The Flower Communion was brought to the United States in 1940

and introduced to the members of the Cambridge, Massachusetts, church by Dr. Capek's wife, Maja V. Capek. From this beginning, the service has spread to many of our Unitarian Universalist congregations and has been adapted along the way.

Dr. Capek's Flower Communion service is very similar to what we still do today. People were asked to bring a flower of their choice, either from their own gardens or from the field or roadside. When they arrived at church a large vase stood waiting in the vestibule, attended by two young members of the Church School. Each person was asked to place their own flower in the vase. This signified that it was by their own free will they joined with the others. The vase that contained all the flowers was a symbol of the united church fellowship.

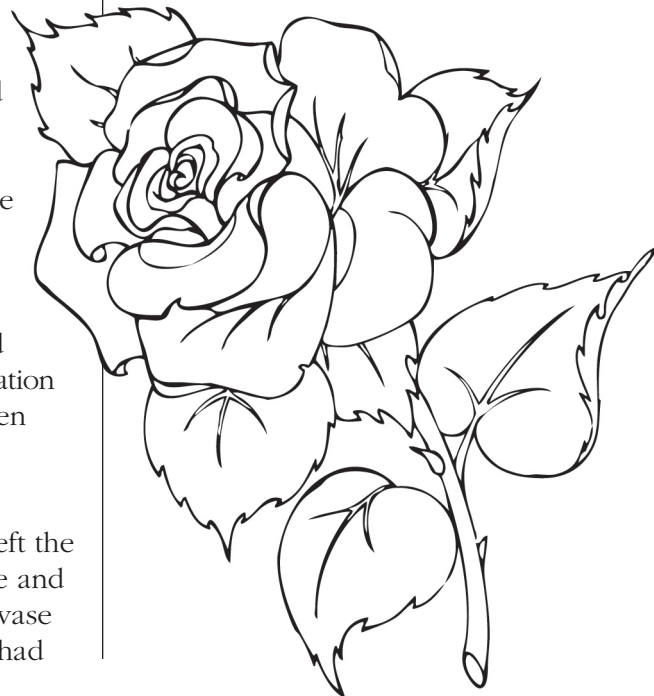
The young attendants helped with the arrangement of the bouquet. Later they carried the vase up to the front of the auditorium and placed it on a table there. Dr. Capek then said a prayer, after which he walked over and consecrated the flowers while the congregation stood. The two attendants then took the vase back out into the vestibule.

After the service, as people left the church, they went to the vase and each took a flower from the vase other than the one that they had

brought. The significance of the Flower Communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community, it would not be the same without each and every one of us. This service is a statement of our community.

By exchanging flowers, we show our willingness to walk together in our search for truth, disregarding all that might divide us. Each person takes home a flower brought by someone else – thus symbolizing our shared celebration in community. This communion of sharing is essential to a free people of a free religion.

— Reginald Zottoli,
from *uuu.org*



GETTING TO KNOW YOU — THELMA ROSS

As it continues to feature the biographies of its members, this month The Leaf introduces Thelma Ross.

Thelma Ross “signed the book” in May along with her granddaughter, Julie Mancy (who was the reason Thelma started attending First Universalist Church of New Madison.)

After graduating from Ohio University, Thelma began her teaching career near Columbus, but when she married Tom Ross she was no longer allowed to teach. Her first teaching job was in Ansonia, but only for a year and a half. She taught high school business education courses for 30 years (with 10 of those years also teaching Spanish) in Hollansburg, Palestine, and finally in Greenville.

“When I was only a kid the only thing I ever wanted to do was be a teacher,” Thelma said. “From the second grade on it was all I ever wanted – and I taught for 30 years. I loved teaching.”

She considers teaching one of her greatest achievements, but also her three children, Lura, Roberta and Stanley, are also high on her list of proud successes. “I also paid for two farms, both of them now paid off,” she added.

Thelma’s mother died when she was 10. She, her father and sister then lived with her grandmother, who Thelma credits with being one of the most influential people

in her life. She lived with her grandmother until she graduated from high school. Her grandmother took her to the Methodist church in Springfield, but when she married Tom they attended the Church of Christ in Palestine, where her mother and grandmother were ardent supporters and offered financial help when the church needed it.

“The help from my mother’s pension was the main reason the church survived,” Thelma said. It turns out that she has been

baptized twice because the Church of Christ didn’t recognize her Methodist baptism as genuine enough.

“Julie and I visited several churches, but none seemed to be right,” Thelma reports. Then Julie, who had attended UU churches in Ann Arbor and Minnesota, suggested they attend First Universalist of New Madison.

“I seem to have found something that more or less strikes a chord with me,” she said. “Things you (the minister) said seem to fit with me.”

She then added that it is perhaps AA, which she and Tom attended for 55 years, that serves as church for her as well. “There I learned about a God as I understand him.”

— Richard Venus

“Julie and I visited several churches, but none seemed to be right. ... Things you [the minister] said seem to fit with me.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Just as this planet is not the physical center of the Universe, our species is not the center of this planet.”

John Gibbs Millspaugh (Unitarian Universalist, minister, educator)

“I am the inferior of any man whose rights I trample underfoot.”

Horace Greeley (Universalist, journalist, social reformer)

“A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (Unitarian, Supreme Court Justice)

OUR ENVIRONMENT

We Didn't Have The "Green" Thing In Our Day

In the line at the store, a young male cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags were not good for the environment. The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the 'green' thing back in my day." The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough about the Earth to save our environment."

Yes, our generation didn't have the "green" thing in its day....but...

Back Then...

We returned milk bottles, pop bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled, so the same bottles could be used over and over. They really *were* recycled.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower, gasoline-sucking machine every time we had to go two blocks.

We washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a clothesline, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really *did* dry the clothes.

We had one TV or radio in the house – not a TV in every room. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't

have electric machines to do every separate task for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

We didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push-mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working and playing outside so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

We drank from a fountain or washable glass when we were thirsty instead of using a throw-away cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen. Razor blades were replaced instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

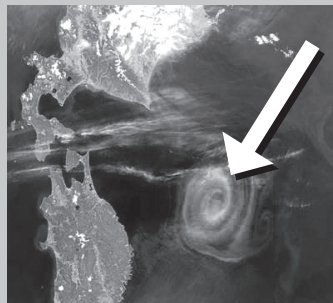
People took the streetcar or a bus, and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their Mom into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. We didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad that *some* of the current generation lament how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green" thing back then? We are grateful to other young people today who recognize that old folks did the best they could with the knowledge and resources at hand – and that maybe some of the old folks' ways of doing things weren't so bad after all!

—*from a recently circulated email*

BY THE NUMBERS

Approximately **46,000** pieces of trash float on every **1** square mile of ocean. Humans toss another **2.5 million** pieces into our oceans hourly.



The **Great Pacific Garbage Patch** is an area in the north Pacific Ocean, estimated to be roughly twice the size of Texas, filled with all kinds of plastic debris (including Styrofoam) that have gathered together due to the behavior of the ocean's current. The area is believed to contain 100 million tons of plastic debris and harmful chemicals.

GUEST COLUMN

Dr. Donald Nguyen, M.D. is a UU. His wife attends Miami Valley Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship in Dayton, and his daughter is attending Harvard Divinity School, preparing for the UU ministry.

Local Physician Expresses Support For Healthcare

DAYTON, Ohio (WDTN) — From Dr. Don Nguyen, Doctors for America:

The Law of the Land is called the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Some refer to it as the ACA. What is being currently debated in the courts is not about the ACA but rather one provision – the individual mandate – among hundreds of other provisions, some related to regulations of the insurance industries, some related to patients, and others related to physicians. Most recently, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled that the individual mandate is fully constitutional, agreeing with the Michigan court.

For a private insurance market to work well and fairly, the individual mandate ensures that no one is getting a free ride, and it allows each and everyone greater protection and a more affordable price of coverage. The individual mandate is one constant denominator that is the foundation for any progressive healthcare system in any successful modernized and industrialized nation of the world, with the exception of the United States. By having the mandate, the number of uninsured patients is greatly reduced, which is important and crucial to having a healthy nation. It also prevents “adverse selection,” when healthy and young people

choose not to have insurance. This causes the premiums to skyrocket for everybody else – you, me, and the Tea Party. That cannot be fair, can it? By having everyone insured, local hospitals would be happy because the uncompensated care (patients who would show up to the ER room with no insurance) would be greatly reduced.

Some Interesting Facts about ACA

Patients with chronic diabetes, hypertension, cancer, asthma, and children born with congenital birth defects cannot be discriminated against because of these pre-existing conditions. No lifetime caps on patients means no patients have to risk medical bankruptcy. Insurance companies are banned from the practice of rescission (dropping patients when they are diagnosed with serious illnesses). Young adults (less than 28 years in Ohio) without a job or insurance can still stay on the parents’ policy. Small businesses can claim tax credits for their employees’ coverage. More than 109,000 Medicare recipients received a \$250 check this past year for prescription drugs if they were in the donut hole. This year 478,272 seniors saved \$260 million thanks to a 50% discount on brand name prescription drugs. (The donut hole will be eliminated by 2014.) Preventative and wellness care are now free under the ACA for both Medicare and commercial insurance patients. More money is

going into training of primary care physicians, for building of new or renovating community health centers, and much more.

What the ACA Means to Patients and Physicians

It is about the patients. It is about regulating the insurance industry to give fair and deserving access of care to patients without cheating them or getting rich on the backs of patients. It is about getting patients healthier and as a nation, we deserve this. The ACA is only a first step, and many of its provisions need to be strengthened even more. The above mentioned provisions which were enacted starting in 2010 tell me, as a physician, that this Law of the Land is a decent, good, and kind one – a law worthy to protect, to preserve, and to defend.

— Donald Nguyen, MD, FAAP

BY THE NUMBERS

Collections of cash and checks yielded a yearly total of **\$835.60** for the FISH Foodbank! First Universalist Church continues to be one of FISH’s biggest supporters.

— Thank you!

CELEBRATIONS

July Birthdays

- 2 Patt Lipps
- 2 Barbara Hamelberg
- 9 Leo Douglas Williams
- 13 Chris Price
- 17 Roberta Feltman
- 20 Janet Cassity
- 22 Nanette Fritsche
- 29 Emerson Behee
- 31 Dick Brooks

July Anniversaries

- 8 Richard & Marcia Venus



August Birthdays

- 1 Dave Feltman
- 5 Margaret Schryver
- 7 Wyatt Ketring
- 10 Jeanette Burns
- 15 Rachel Buccicone
- 25 Margaret Meyer
- 26 John 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

FISH

FISH Wish List

FISH has asked that our donations focus on the following:

- ***Soups (tomato, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom, chicken noodle)***
- ***Macaroni and cheese***
- ***Cereal***
- ***Canned corn and green beans***
- ***Canned fruit***
- ***Peanut butter***
- ***Jam or jelly***
- ***Hamburger extenders (spaghetti or other sauces, Hamburger Helper, chili beans)***
- ***Baked beans***
- ***Tuna***
- ***Sandwich spreads***
- ***Salad dressing***
- ***Mayonnaise***

