

NOV/DEC  
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*

*Our work brings people face to face with love. — Mother Teresa*

I came across this quote from Mother Teresa just as I was reading a *New York Times* article about the growing energy and numbers in the "Occupy Wall Street" movement that at the time of this writing were growing larger and more influential by the day. The article described how several labor unions were joining the movement and how the movement's organizers were grateful for their presence but also reminded them that they should not try to co-op the movement.

That Wall Street bankers and brokers need to be seriously challenged is not only necessary, but not a moment too late. One of the protestors carried a sign that seemed to sum up much of the sentiment of the crowd. It read: "These People Took My Parent's Home."

In January 2010, the *Washington Post* reported that the U.S. Supreme court "swept aside decades of legislative restrictions on the role of corporations in political campaigns, ruling that companies can dip into their treasuries to spend as much as they want to support or oppose individual candidates."

One very real result of that decision came recently when, in the midst of depression-like conditions closely resembling the 1929 stock market crash, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank donated \$4.6 million to the New York City Police Foundation, the largest donation ever given to the NYPD. Those were the same police who hosed down some defenseless women with pepper spray and arrested hundreds of peaceful protestors.

I admit to having great empathy for those protestors but I also need to remember those words of Mother Teresa. I'm not sure whose work she was speaking of, but in our work we ought to be mindful of her admonition to bring people together in love. I know how corny that may sound, and I'm saying it miles from any protest movement. I am mindful, however, of Dr. Martin Luther King's effort to bring change, but always remembering that we are all neighbors, whether we see things the same or not.

It is also easy for me to say "be sure to remember love" when I don't have to face either the hardships those protestors are talking about or a policeman's bully club. I only offer the suggestion to love at a distance to remind me that love is a powerful way to make change and I hope that it is also part of the organizing tools used by those seeking change and those who are opposed to it.

I'm not sure who, but someone once wrote, "Some decisions can be made once for all time. Using seat belts is such a decision. So is offering love to the world that greets us."

*Richard V.*

### SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

- NOV 6** Valerie Mapstone Ackerman  
**NOV 13** Richard Venus  
*Another Thanksgiving*  
**NOV 20** Union Service at Eldorado  
**NOV 28** Richard Venus  
*Doing Nothing*  
**DEC 4** Richard Venus  
*Save the Children; Guest at your Table*  
**DEC 11** Derek Parker  
**DEC 18** Richard Venus  
*Tween Bethlehem and Jupiter*  
**DEC 24** Candlelight Service  
*6:00 p.m.*  
**DEC 25** Merry Christmas!  
*No Sunday Service*  
**JAN 1** Richard Venus  
*Looking Ahead, Remembering the Past*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fall Church Cleaning**  
Nov. 5, 9:00 a.m.  
**FISH Offering Sundays**  
Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.  
**Food 'n' Friendship**  
Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.  
**Harvest Sounds Concert**  
Nov. 6, 3:00 p.m.  
**Board Meetings**  
Nov. 15 and Dec. 20, 7 p.m.  
**Union Service at Eldorado**  
Nov. 20, 10:00 a.m.  
**Church Holiday Decorating**  
Dec. 3, 9:00 a.m.  
**Christmas Party**  
Dec. 5, 6:00 p.m. Carry-in.

# COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

## Outreach Committee

### *Thank-you from Animal Shelter*

A lovely thank-you note was sent to our church from the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center in north Dayton. They were very grateful for our donations of cat litter and other supplies in response to an emergency influx of rescued animals that stretched their resources very thin. Happily, they reported that quite a few animals have been rehabilitated and adopted into loving homes for a new start on life.

### *Mitten Tree*

The Mitten Tree is an annual project that First Universalist looks forward to every holiday season. Beginning on Sunday December 4 and ending on December 18, we will be collecting new children's-sized gloves and mittens. Just bring your donations to church and hang them on the tree. The mittens will then be delivered to Head Start, who distributes them to needy Darke County children aged 3 to 5 years. Thank you to Dede Wissman who delivers the mittens for us.

### *Greeting Cards for St. Jude*

It's time to remind everyone that our project to help the needy children of St. Jude's Ranch for Children continues all year long. With the holidays approaching, there are bound to be greeting

cards that you'd be throwing out. Instead, please consider bringing them to church to place in the donation box. The card fronts are recycled by the children of St. Jude's and then sold for \$10 per package, with the funds being used to benefit the needy children through programs and services. Please submit only the card's front, and be sure it does not have any written messages on the back side. No Hallmark, American Greetings or Disney cards are accepted due to copyright restrictions.

Consider purchasing your holiday cards through St. Jude's! Visit their website at [www.stjudesranch.org/online\\_store.php](http://www.stjudesranch.org/online_store.php), or call 1-877-977-7572 or send a request to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Attention Donor Office, P.O. Box 60100, Boulder City, NV 89006.

### *Valentine for Mexico*

Once again, the Outreach Committee will be asking the Congregation to participate in "Valentine for Mexico" – our international project. There will be more information about this project in the next issue of *The Leaf*.

— Margaret Schryver

## Music Committee

### *SCC Concert Schedule 2012*

Several of you have attended the concerts of the Wind Symphony and Concert Band at Sinclair Community College and you've asked me to post the performance schedule. The concerts, free of charge, are held in the theater (Building 2) on Sinclair's campus in downtown Dayton. Featuring music performed by full wind ensemble (woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments), the selections cover a wide variety of musical styles, encompassing traditional and contemporary sounds. Since I'll be on stage playing my piccolo, I'd love to see familiar faces from First Universalist in the audience! I hope you can stop by and enjoy our music.

— Margaret Schryver

*November 19 — 8:00 p.m.*

— **Wind Symphony**

*November 21 — 7:30 p.m.*

— **Concert Band**

*February 4 — 8:00 p.m.*

— **Wind Symphony**

— *Guest soloist, Joe Luloff, saxophone*

*March 11 — 2:00 p.m.*

— **Wind Symphony**

*March 19 — 7:30 p.m.*

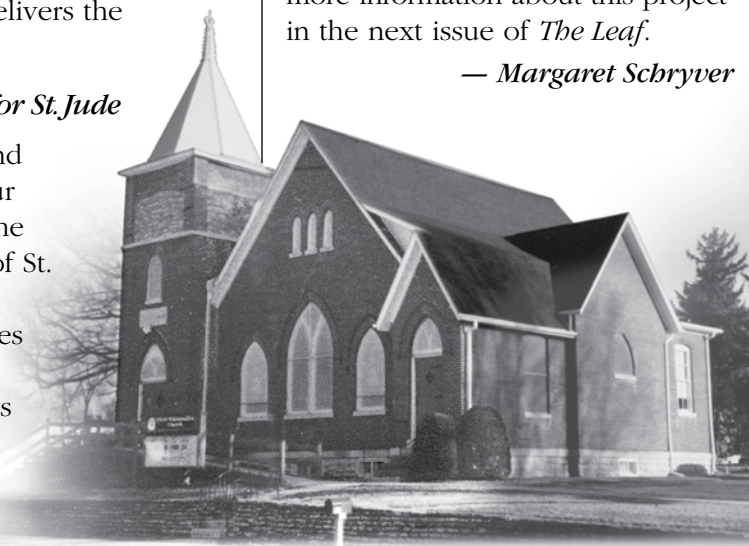
— **Concert Band**

*April 29 — 2:00 p.m.*

— **Wind Symphony, Concert Band, Youth Honor Band**

— *Guest composer/conductor, Samuel Hazo*

*See page 8 for an article about Harvest Sounds!*



## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

### Website Committee

#### *A Big Thank-You*

Thanks go out to Claire Brooks Williams. Claire has been our webmaster since 2006 when she took over web duties from the original creator, Kris Rantz. Claire was instrumental in expanding the church's website and has continued to maintain and see to all of our updates in an excellent manner! As most of you can imagine, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work involved with a job like this. Claire has managed to accomplish it in addition to her busy schedule as a wife, mother, and her job. Claire will be retiring her webmaster position at the end of December. The PR committee, Board, and Congregation thank you, Claire, for all of your hard and continuous work. We have enjoyed working with Claire and wish her well in her next endeavors!

It is a great pleasure to announce that assuming the position of webmaster will be Julie Mancy (email contact address [jmancy@umich.edu](mailto:jmancy@umich.edu)), who is also our present secretary of the Board. Any information for the website should be given to the PR committee: DeDe Wissman, Roberta Feltman, or Paula Godsey. We will see that your information gets to Julie Mancy, please allow adequate time for any information to be posted.

Again, thanks to both Claire Brooks Williams and Julie Mancy for all of their work. These ladies are a truly a huge blessing to our church.

— *Respectfully, Paula Godsey*

**An excerpt** from an archived webinar entitled “*Welcoming Newcomers*,” located on the *Midwest UU Leadership\** website, from *UU Church of Halifax, Nova Scotia...*

### **I'm New Here. Won't You Please...**



...*Smile at me* when I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the Fellowship during the first few moments I am in your building, and this first impression will probably last a long time.

...*Help me* find my place in the service. I will not find your help an intrusion; in fact, I will remember your kindness.

...*Speak to me* after the service or during coffee hour. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of committee business, but I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for one another unless I first see evidence that you care for the “stranger in your midst.”

...*Tell me* the good things about your congregation and your leaders. I want to believe I have come to a place where people love each other and where they believe they are doing something for the cause of truth.

...*Notice me* even if I am not a “family.” I don't want to feel I am invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager or an older person.

...*Talk to me again* the second week when I come back, and the third and fourth. I am still not a part of the congregation family.

...*Invite me* to become part of some group or organization. I need more than weekend worship. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by a group of people within the fellowship who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.

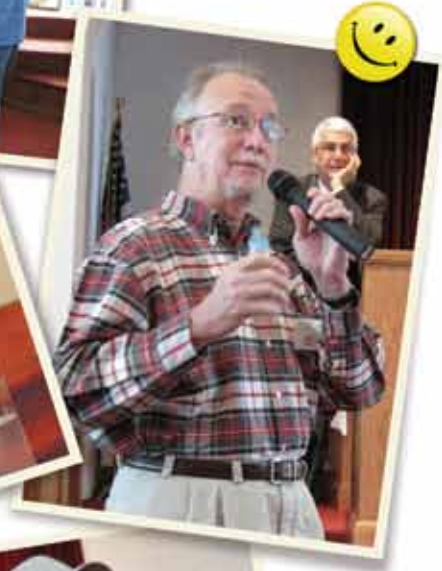
If you find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will keep coming back. I will join your choir, work at your suppers, and become a highly involved member of your congregation and in doing so, I will find my own life immeasurably enriched as a result of having become a member of your congregation. Thank you!

\* *Midwest UU Leadership is a resource site serving Heartland, Prairie Star and Central Midwest districts. They provide free, live webinars on all kinds of topics applicable to congregation life. These webinars are then archived and posted on their website. You can see a list of these archives and links to view them here: <http://www.midwestuuleadership.org/archives/>. These presentations are not just for employees or board members, but anyone in the congregation who has an interest in the topic. They are an incredible free resource designed to help us improve our community.*

— *submitted by Richard Venus*

# SCRAPBOOK

**September 11, 2011** was the date of First Universalist Church's annual Water Ceremony, followed by the Church picnic. Thank you, Christel Brooks, for taking these photographs!





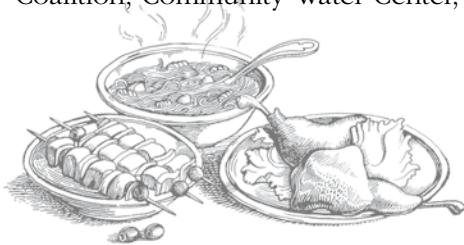
# THIS AND THAT

## UUSC Work Is Successful

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee President and CEO Rev. Bill Schulz writes, "I am overjoyed to share with you the good news of the passage into law of four bills in the California human-right-to-water bill package. After months of hard work, the following four bills have become law:

- A.B. 983, which will help communities access funds for drinking water systems
- A.B. 1221, which will allow communities to be eligible for already allocated clean-up funds
- A.B. 938, which will make sure people know what's in their water
- S.B. 244, which will require cities to develop plans for providing service to small communities

This is a tremendous victory. With leadership from the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California (UULMCA) and UULMCA Executive Director Rev. Lindi Ramsden, and from our partners at the Environmental Water Justice Coalition, Community Water Center,



JOINT SERVICE at  
**Eldorado**  
on NOV. 20 at 10:00 A.M.

**All are welcome to this annual event.  
Stay for lunch following the Service.**

and Food and Water Watch, Unitarian Universalists in California have helped their state take an enormous step forward in ensuring safe, sufficient, and affordable water for all.

Thank you for sending a message to California UUs expressing your gratitude for their strong witness for the human right to water. More than 500 UUs from 37 states around the country also wrote messages!

The perseverance of human-right-to-water advocates in California serves as an inspiration to us here at UUSC, to Unitarian Universalists around the country, and to all people who continue to struggle for access to water for basic human needs.

This victory is also a call to greater action. Over the next legislative year, California UU's will continue to work to pass A.B. 685, the human-right-to-water bill. And you can support the human right to water in your own community.

— *Richard Venus*

## A Service Committee of Great Worth

For the first time in Mexico's history, a court has accepted a petition that will enable the people of Ampliacion Tres de Mayo to show they have been discriminated against and denied access to safe water by the XoChitepec water municipality, a utility company that has systematically cut off the people of Ampliacion Tres de Mayo from a supply of adequate water.

In the previous article, UU Service Committee Executive Director Bill

# CHRISTMAS GIVING 2011

## *A Special Christmas Offering*

It is a tired, well-worn cliché that says Christmas is the season for giving. It is also true. We at the New Madison church count on your generosity in this season to help us keep the doors open the rest of the year. An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter. Please consider making a generous contribution as a way of truly saying Merry Christmas that will be a most important gift to sustain this liberal religious home and assist us as we seek to bring peace on earth and goodwill to all.

— *Richard Venus*

Schultz, tells of how the committee has supported efforts in California to ensure that low-income people are not deprived of water in that state.

These are only two of many, many examples of the kind of work supported by our gifts to the Guest At Your Table program. Beginning on November 11 and running through December 4, the program will ask that each of us make regular donations to the GAYT boxes that will be available for you to take home. Please bring what you have collected to the December 4th service, where we will celebrate our support of this most important effort.

— *Richard Venus*

## YOUR VOICES HEARD

### It's "Guest at Your Table" Time Again!

All are invited to take one of the Guest At Your Table boxes that have been set out again this year, beginning in November. Hopefully they will be used to collect your coins, bills and checks that will then be turned in on Sunday, December 4th. The Unitarian



Universalist Service Committee uses your gifts to assist those who are working with local grassroots organizations worldwide on behalf of people who have a desperate need for help. In the past, your gifts have assisted those who have suffered from earthquake or flooding or who built a schoolhouse or dug a well in an impoverished neighborhood. More information will be available at Services throughout November.

In the past, First Universalist Church has been honored with a banner from the UUSC commending us on the generosity of our giving. The most recent banner hung on the pulpit for the past year. Thank you for your support.

— *Richard Venus*

### First Universalists Discuss "Occupy Wall Street"

After church service on October 16, fifteen congregants stayed for a discussion of "Occupy Wall Street." The meeting was led by Richard Venus, and covered questions such as: What is the purpose of the movement? Is there a Leader? What are the goals and issues? Is our Government taking notice? Will winter and bad weather see the end of the protests in cities all over the world?

Movements such as OWS begin with radicals and radicalism, then broaden to include core truths and a wider constituency. The Civil Rights movement floundered for years until Dr. Martin Luther King came along and joined the cause of African Americans. And we can never forget the demonstrations against the Vietnam War, nor the suffragettes' fight for women's right to vote. The church as an institution backed earlier movements, but has not come forward on the Wall Street opposition. Will it?

Also discussed was the disparity between rich and poor – the 99% vs. the 1%. Richard read from an article by Joseph E. Stiglitz from the May issue of *Vanity Fair*. In a portion from which Richard did not quote, the writer notes: "...In our own democracy, 1 percent of the people take nearly a quarter of the nation's income...The upper 1 percent of Americans are now taking in nearly a quarter of the nation's income every year. In terms of wealth rather than income, the top 1 percent control 40 percent.

Their lot in life has improved considerably. Twenty-five years ago, the corresponding figures were 12 percent and 33 percent. One response might be to celebrate the ingenuity and drive that brought good fortune to these people, and to contend that a rising tide lifts all boats. That response would be misguided. While the top 1 percent have seen their incomes rise 18 percent over the past decade, those in the middle have actually seen their incomes fall."

We also asked, "Are we supporting people needing help? In what way?"

Is 99% vs. 1% showing too much disparity, or is it fairly accurate? It was mentioned that the end of the Middle Class was predicted years ago. Are we there yet?

Sadly there are no answers to these many questions, and although the OWS movement seems to getting some attention, Wall Street's thinking is that it won't last.

### More Discussions in Future?

It was suggested that such forums be held on a monthly basis. If there is a topic you would like discussed let Richard know.

— *Roberta Feltman and Richard Venus*

### Participate in Upcoming Issues of *The Leaf*

ISSUE	ARTICLES DUE
<b>JAN/FEB</b>	Dec. 28
<b>MAR/APR</b>	Feb. 20

Send submissions to Margaret Schryver ([mschryver@hafenbrack.com](mailto:mschryver@hafenbrack.com)).

# HARVEST SOUNDS BENEFIT CONCERT



## Something to Please Everyone

The Congregation of First Universalist Church likes to think that something magical happens every Sunday in their little brick building at 331 East Washington Street. They weren't disappointed on Sunday November 6! Over 60 audience members and seven performers were transformed to that special spiritual place that only the ageless power of Music and Dance can provide. Simply put, there was a *good vibe* that afternoon for the eleventh annual Benefit Concert!

Rev. Richard Venus opened the program by welcoming the audience and performers. He extended his thanks to everyone who attended and/or volunteered their time and talents to bring together this event in support of the HOPE (Helping Other People Excel) Foundation of Darke County. Christine Praker, president of HOPE Foundation, expressed her gratitude by stating, "The real reason we're all here is

because of generous hearts." She gave us more insight into the kind of work her foundation does in the form of grants to local non-profit organizations and scholarships to Darke County students. The foundation provides support in areas such as the arts, education, social services, community projects, conservation and animal welfare.

## On With the Show!

Christel Brooks always brings her welcoming personality, sincerity and sense of humor to every Harvest Sounds Concert as emcee – and this year was no different. It was her pleasure to introduce a musical ensemble that holds a special place in her heart, because her brother Stu is a member of Subject to Change – a delightful trio consisting of Wanda and Dennis Schwallie with Stuart Schlotterbeck. This is their third Harvest Sounds Concert. When they aren't performing, these talented musicians work at their "day jobs": Stuart as an engineer, Dennis as an attorney, and Wanda as a Music Director. Subject to

Change began their program with an audience sing-a-long to *Goodnight, Irene* and *You Are My Sunshine*, showcasing Stuart's smooth yet spirited solo vocals, accompanied by guitars and banjo. *Down On The Boondocks* brought the energy of the 1960s, featuring bongo drum played by Wanda with Dennis' accompaniment on mandolin. A complete change of mood followed during a tender rendition of *Hard Times Come Again No More*. This lovely vocal duet mesmerized the audience with the blended harmony of Stuart and Wanda. Wanda apologetically commented earlier that she was getting over a cold – but no apology was necessary. Her sweet voice was beautiful. The delightful *Swingin' On a Star* brought a smile to everyone's face – but outright laughter was unavoidable during Dennis' novelty number, *Lydia the Tattooed Lady!* Next, the lonely sound of a soprano recorder (played by Stuart) prefaced *I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger*. This plaintive piece featured a mandolin solo by Dennis, whose versatility on many instruments – guitar, banjo, mandolin and resonator guitar – was evident throughout the afternoon. The trio ended their program with *Home* and were met with enthusiastic applause.

First Universalist Trio – Roberta Feltman (piano), Lloyd Ketring (organ) and Margaret Schryver (flute) – offered a musical "prelude" to the Irish dancing that was soon to follow. Their rendition of *The Lord Of The Dance*, a melody traditionally known as *Simple Gifts*, exhibited several different musical

styles – light and dance-like, then fluid and smooth, then soft and delicate, and finally concluding with majestic excitement.

For the first time ever, Harvest Sounds welcomed a dancer to the stage. And not just *any* dancer. Drew Lovejoy is the World Champion of Irish Dance in his age group. This 16-year-old is a straight-A high school senior from Greenville who began dancing nearly as soon as he could walk. He has been competing in Irish Dance since the age of 6. Not only is Drew a stand-out due to his exceptional gift of dance, but this young man has also been recognized as a “first” in bringing diversity to the world of Irish Dance. He is the first person of color and the first person of Jewish faith to win the competitions. Drew’s mother, Andee Goldberg, introduced her son’s dances while informing the audience about the intricacies of this art form including costumes and competitions. As the music began to play, Drew stood quietly at center-stage – a composed, absolutely still figure with a shy

demeanor. Suddenly with a click of his heels he exploded into a flurry of movement! With jumps, taps, fancy footwork and high kicks that seemed like they’d break the ceiling lights, Drew brought an energy to the room that literally vibrated the entire church building! This first dance was a *Treble Jig*, described as “sprinting at full force for 90 seconds.” His second dance, a *Set Dance*, was specially choreographed for Drew. It was accompanied by the music of *The Piper Through The Meadow Straying*. The third dance was a fascinating *A Cappella* (without music) performance. Through the absence of musical accompaniment, the audience could hear every intricate rhythm of the dance, which created its own kind of percussive music. Drew involved the audience in his finale by encouraging them to clap along to the music of *Treble Reel* by Jim Butke. He then pounded out a dance that could only be described as sheer joy in motion – an unusual combination of movement which looks light and airy while at the same time relies on the heavy



foot-falls and heel-taps to create a rhythmic pulse that vibrates in your very soul. A heartfelt standing ovation rounded out this year’s Harvest Sounds.

Christel Brooks summed up the afternoon perfectly with her concluding remark, “I see a *lot* of smiles!” – but none were as bright as those of the members of HOPE Foundation, for First Universalist raised \$700 to help the cause. Judging by the excited “buzz” in the room during the post-concert cookie reception, this was another bright success for Harvest Sounds and its beneficiary. Thank you all for making this afternoon possible.

— Margaret Schryver



## GUEST COLUMN

**Mary Behee** sent this article about former members of First Universalist Church of New Madison, and where their life journeys have taken them.

### New Madison Carries On in Many Places

Our church has had a number of former attendees whose professions took them on to greener pastures. However, we are happy that they had their UUism either enriched or were introduced to it while here. Don't underestimate the power of a "little" church, as we have enlarged and strengthened many another UU congregation.

We are proud of *Becky Grim* who left us to complete her degree in

pharmacy. She and David, now grandparents, live in Tucson, Arizona. They and their daughter were in charge of our Harry Potter party science classes. They also distributed our supply-filled backpacks to an Indian reservation.

*Ginnie McNeil* and twins are in Belington, West Virginia, living in a mountain cabin. Ginnie is not presently doing social work because she is recovering from an injury, but she has qualified to be an OWL ("Our Whole Lives") instructor. The OWL curriculum tells us that ties

with our church continue. While in Oxford, and later in Marietta, Ginnie and her family were part of Kat Hawbaker's congregation. Daughters Max and Skeeter (no longer going by their nicknames) are now in college.

*Dave and Karen Sanders* are in Apex, North Carolina. Dave has had much overseas travel on behalf of his job. Karen completed her teaching degree and currently does substitute teaching. Dave was active in boy scouts and helped his son become an Eagle Scout. Son and daughter both graduated from high school and are now college students. Dave will be remembered by us for his legacy of the brown bag technique.

*The Nandyals'* present address is in Gahenna, Ohio where they have been extremely active in a UU congregation as board members, church school staff, committee chairmen, and speakers. Name it, and they have done it! Lauri is presently staying with her parents in Cincinnati to care for her ill father. The family will relocate from Gahenna to Cincinnati when possible. Their eldest daughter is a junior in college. The second daughter is still in high school, and they have a third daughter who was born after they left here. The girls are exceptionally talented.

We can be proud of the graduates of First Universalist Church of New Madison, as they have proven themselves in a bigger world.

— *Mary Behee*

## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

**World population hits 7 billion** as of October 31 this year, according to the U.N. Population Fund. — *ASSOCIATED PRESS*

### WORLD POPULATION FIGURES

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

1804..... 1 billion  
 1927..... 2 billion  
 1959..... 3 billion  
 1974..... 4 billion  
 1987..... 5 billion  
 1998..... 6 billion  
 2011..... 7 billion

#### U.N. PROJECTIONS

2025..... 8 billion  
 2083..... 10 billion

**I don't feel  
 so good.**



# GETTING TO KNOW YOU — JANET BAKER

**As it continues to feature the biographies of its members, this month The Leaf introduces Janet Baker.**

No stranger to our church, Janet Baker grew up in the First Universalist Church of New Madison where she began attending as a child with her mother in the years before the building was closed for a period of time in the 1940s. During the closing, she attended the United Methodist Church in New Madison, where she was married to Kenny. Together they returned to First Universalist Church of New Madison where they have been loyal, dedicated and tremendously helpful members ever since.

Janet, who reports that she is 29 years old, was literally born at home with the help of the New Madison doctor who then made house calls with his wife. She graduated from the high school in New Madison in 1957, the same year as Kenny. He went off to Army training in Georgia. When he

“You can believe the way you ought to believe.”

— Janet Baker

returned home on his first leave in October they were married in the United Methodist Church. Kenny was then transferred to a base in Massachusetts, and after a year Janet joined him there where they

stayed for about three years until the end of Kenny’s tour of duty. It was during that time when they had their first child, Terry, born in 1959. Three children followed: Cindi (‘61), Laurie (‘64) and Lyle (‘70). Eight grandchildren are now Janet’s pride and joy. In fact, if she were to offer her greatest achievement it would

be her family in whom she delights and regularly entertains in her home. If she were to describe a perfect day it would be having her family together.

What Janet says she likes best about the New Madison church is, “You can believe the way you

“There is little or nothing I dislike in other people.”

— Janet Baker

ought to believe.” Being part of the church community is very important to her. While she says Kenny is the most influential person in her life, it is the friendly, sincere quality of the people in the NM church that means so much to her. She says, and I believe, that “there is little or nothing I dislike in other people”.

What happens around the tables in the room at the rear of the sanctuary on Sunday morning is extremely important to the life of the New Madison UU Church of which Janet is a central part. The money she collects (and that we all joke about!) in the Sunday raffle is used to buy flowers for those in the hospital, for shut-ins or for memorial services. We at First Universalist Church would not be the caring community we are without the grace and good works of Janet Baker.

— Richard Venus



# CELEBRATIONS

## November Birthdays

- 2 Tye McMahan
- 3 Melissa Buccicone
- 4 Andy Willis
- 10 Charles Godsey
- 13 Janet Baker
- 15 Daniel Willis
- 23 Ron Staub
- 25 Christel Brooks
- 29 Ash Williams

## November Anniversaries

- 6 Emerson & Bonnie Behee



## December Birthdays

- 1 Danielle Fritsche
- 5 Marcia Venus
- 6 John Price
- 10 Steven Willis
- 11 Wilma Rutan
- 14 Courtney (Searls) Pulfer
- 25 Lloyd Ketring
- 27 Megan Cass
- 29 Mark Searls
- 31 Matthew Baker

## December Anniversaries

- 8 Charles & Paula Godsey
- 14 Roberta & Dave Feltman
- 26 Cecil & Ken Beers

