



# The Leaf

May/June 2006

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

## Sunday Services 10 AM

**May 7: Richard Venus**

**May 14: Martha Andrews &  
Dede Wissman**

**May 21: Nancy Bowen**

**May 28: Richard Venus**

**June 4: Richard Venus**

**June 11: Chuck Thomas**

**June 18: Richard Venus**

**June 25: Leroy Steinbrecher**

Youth RE & Childcare  
start at 10 AM

## Upcoming Events

### **FISH Offering Sundays**

May 7 & June 4

### **First Thursday Theological Society**

May 4, 7 PM

June 1, 7 PM

Advance reading is available at  
the church

### **Board of Directors Meetings**

Everyone is welcome!

May 23, 7 PM

June 27, 7 PM

### **Pet Show**

Sunday, July 2nd, 1 PM

in front of Tri-Village School

## **Richard's Reflections**

I regularly ask myself, "What is it we do at our 10 o'clock hour on Sunday morning?" We gather, at least, to sing, meditate, listen, drink coffee (or something similar), and communicate. I am reminded, however, that we also do those things, or at least can do them, in places other than church. I then ask, "What is it about church that is special?"

A number of years ago, one of the ablest of our ministers, A. Powell Davies, wrote: "We meet each other as friends and neighbors anywhere and everywhere, but we seldom do so in the consciousness of our soul's deepest yearnings. But in church we do—in a way that is intrusive, yet leaves us knowing that we all have the same yearning, the same spiritual need of assurance and faith and hope. We are brought together at the highest level. We are not merely an audience. We are a congregation."

I suspect he is on to something important. We make what happens in church special by our being with each other in a spirit of love and care. What makes worship special, and more than any other assembly, is what we collectively bring to the celebration; we bring a self-conscious awareness of our gathered spirit, a caring fellowship that sustains and nurtures all. Worship is more than a performance we attend then go home; it is an act of participation in which we bring our very souls to be present with each other. Our offering, our sharing, our silence is a collective act in which we are more than we would be alone. Our worship is what we all do together with a sense of connection that makes it more than simply another meeting. It is a gathering that searches our soul's deepest yearnings.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

28 Barbara Moore  
31 Amanda Behee

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES:**

10 Byron & Wilma Rutan  
30 Mark & Linda Searls

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS:**

1 Rob Williams  
7 Paula Godsey  
8 Joe West  
16 Kimberly Searls  
18 Martha Andrews  
19 Becky Grimm  
20 Tammy Ketring

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:**

2 Tye & Vickie McMahon  
10 Shawn & Deetra Huntington  
13 Laura & Andy Willis  
20 Claire & Rob Williams  
21 Dick & Christel Brooks  
28 Lori & Dan Lucas

Spring is sprung, The grass is riz,  
I wonder 'bout our church's biz? -Christel Brooks

Spring flowers in front of the church remind us that it's the season when everything feels fresh and new. So let's talk about recent and upcoming church news. On April 9th, the Eldorado congregation joined us for Palm Sunday Union Service. What a wonderful tradition, with good friends and good food. Also in April, Dede Wissman and Fred Meyer represented our church at the Heartland UU District meeting.

Looking ahead, the close of the church year will occur June 30th. We will soon begin to seek candidates for open church board seats and officer positions. If you're interested in learning about becoming a candidate, please talk to Christel Brooks. We already know we'll be seeking candidate(s) for secretary. After 3 years as board secretary, Claire Brooks Williams will be stepping down to concentrate on Religious Education, editing The Leaf, and continuing as webmaster.

Finally what's more fun than the 4th of July weekend in New Madison? Our church will again sponsor the Pet Show, Sunday July 2nd. Dick Brooks is ringmaster par excellence. If you'd like to volunteer for a genuinely enjoyable assignment, speak to Dick.

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