



The Leaf

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Universalist Church November 2003

Sunday Services in November

2: David Ashcraft
9: Paul Britner
16: Leslie Woodward
23: Union Service at Eldorado with Paul Britner and Derek Parker
30: Derek Parker

Mark Your Calendars:



Harvest Sounds Fall Concert

***November 2, 3:00-5:00**

***First Universalist
Church**

***To benefit the Darke
County Chapter of
Habitat for Humanity**

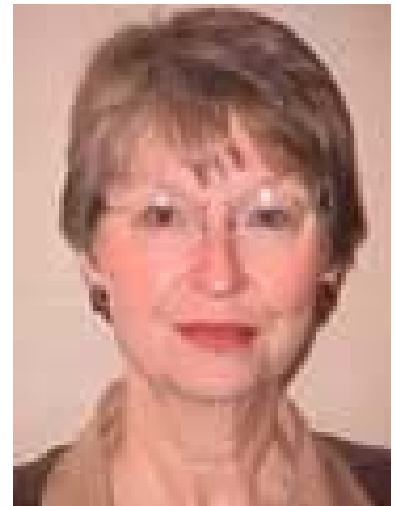
*** Cost: \$5 donation at
the door**

District Executive To Visit New Madison on Nov. 9

Heartland District Executive Mary Andrus-Overly, shown at right, will be visiting New Madison during our November 9 worship service and participating in the Introduction to Unitarian Universalism workshop after the service. Mary will describe her role as an executive and the larger role that districts play in the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The hour-long workshop will begin at noon and follow a pot-luck luncheon. All members and friends of the church are encouraged to come for the worship service and to stay for the workshop or to come to one or the other.

Mary is in her third year as our district executive. One of her goals to visit every congregation in the district, and it is not likely that we will get onto her schedule again in the near future. Among the very important things she does for the district is to help smaller



churches such as ours find ministers, which New Madison may be doing after Paul graduates next May. So, although our church's future is not on the agenda for that day, her visit will give us an opportunity we dare not miss to introduce ourselves to her, to show off our wonderful building, and to learn more about her and her role in helping small churches.

Paul's Office hours:
At the UU Church of Muncie:
Tue/Thu 12:30-2:30, 765-288-9561; At home: call anytime, but I set aside Wed from 9-Noon for church business, 765-965-2940

Church To Discuss Future Plans At January Meeting

As most of you know, our minister, Paul Britner, will be graduating from the Earlham School of Religion on May 9. Under rules established by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, a student minister or intern minister may not continue to serve as a settled minister in a congregation for at least three years after completing the student or intern ministry. So, Paul must move on.

At this time, Paul's plans are not fixed, though he is hoping to find some kind of ministry work in the district so that he can remain in the area. Meanwhile, the church, too, must start thinking ahead.

To facilitate the church's decision making, the Board of Trustees will conduct a shortened worship service on January 11, 2004 followed by a congregation

meeting to discuss our future. The Board will present several options with pros and cons and their respective costs and invite the congregation to offer its feedback.

There will be much more about this meeting as the date draws nearer. If you have questions, though, about the plans for this meeting, please contact a Board member.

Board Acts To Improve Social Hour

Many members have complained that the acoustics in the basement make conversation there during the coffee hour very difficult. At its October meeting, the Board considered a number of options to improve the situation, including moving the coffee hour back upstairs and adding more acoustic tiles to the basement ceiling. No final decision has been made. In the short run, the Board has decided to experiment with moving the tables and chairs under the acoustic tiles at the opposite end of the basement during the social hour.

Unfortunately, this will cause some disruption for the young people who use that area. Children, of course, are welcome at the tables during the social hour. Those children who prefer to play, especially with balls, will be asked to play upstairs or, if weather permits, outside. This short-term measure also will add an extra burden for the adults as well. Any tables and chairs that are moved into the RE space for the coffee hour must be moved back at the end of that time.

If you have suggestions how we might improve the social hour that also honor our commitment to the RE program, please share them with the members of the Board. Meanwhile, as we try this temporary solution, your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Be There or Be Square:

**Pot Luck
Luncheon and
Introduction to
Unitarian
Universalism
Workshop.**

**Sunday, Nov. 9
Noon-1:00**



Harry Potter Party Draws Big Crowd

Over 20 adults and children attended the third Harry Potter party, which was held this year at the church on October 18. Clockwise from the top: Ginnie McNeil and Lori Rantz meet at the fortune telling station; Lori and Kris Rantz work on the decorations; Doug Baker, Caleb Myers (in the middle) and Lori Myers bob for donuts; Mary Behee awards certificates to the graduates of the Hogwarts School of Wizardry; and Caleb Myers, dressed as the *real* Harry Potter, checks out some Harry Potter games.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:



2 Tye McMahan
3 Melissa Buccicone
10 Charles Godsey
13 Janet Baker
13 Marcia Swartz
15 Daniel Jenny
25 Christel Brooks
29 Ash Williams

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

6 Emerson & Bonnie Behee

COFFEE HOUR:

Nov. 2 :
Jeanette Burns
Nov. 9 :
Pot Luck
Carry In
Nov. 16: Christel & Dick Brooks
Nov. 23: Union Service
Nov. 30: Dee & Bill Lengyel



LOTTERY: * Denotes winner present

Sept. 28 Kris Rantz*
Oct. 5 Sue Searls*
Oct. 12 Bonnie Behee
Oct. 19 Tye McMahan

ROAD CLEANUP

On a beautiful warm sunny fall afternoon the church completed it's final road cleanup session of 2003. Thanks to Christel Brooks, Claire Williams, Lloyd Ketring, Jeanette Burns, Kris Rantz and Kenny Baker, the two-mile stretch of US 121 north of New Madison was cleaned of its litter on October 18, 2003. Thanks to all who participated this year in this beautification project.

First Universalist Church
P. O. Box 315
331 E. Washington
New Madison, OH 45346-0315

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