



The Leaf

November 2005

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

Sunday Services 10AM

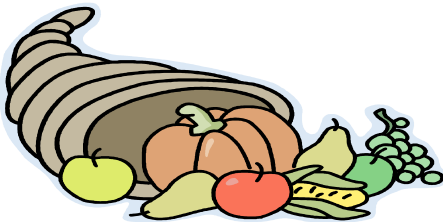
Nov. 6: John Johansen –
The Non-
Lutheran Reformation

Nov. 13: Richard Venus –
An Alternate Thanksgiving

**Nov. 20: Thanksgiving Un-
ion Service at First Univer-
salist Church of Eldorado**

Nov. 27: Nancy Bowen

Childcare starts at 9:50 AM



Guest at Your Table

Place a Guest at Your Table box where you have your meals. As often as you can, insert coins or bills in the box. Bring the box or a check made out to UUSC to church on Dec. 4. This is the primary source of fundraising for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The UUSC is an independent human rights organization whose work is grounded in UU principles. Boxes are available at the church.

Richard's Reflections

I suspect you may be tired of hearing about disasters like hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, but please bear with me as I add my thoughts to the miles of print and countless voices who have opined about these tragedies beyond compare. Rarely have such natural forces struck with such might on these US shores and those who lived in the areas hit by these storms are still trying to recover and in many cases to begin their lives anew.

As Jim Wallis of *Sojourners* put it: "The hurricanes revealed what was already there in America; an invisible and mostly silent poverty that we have chosen not to talk about, let alone to take responsibility for in the richest nation on earth...we all saw it; and so did the rest of the world. And it made Americans feel both compassionate and ashamed."

We hardly know how to respond. Such natural devastation to such a degree has not happened in our lifetime and we offer money, food, clothing and other supplies, but we also know that there is so much more suffering that we cannot

fix. We will, however, hold out a hand in support with a concert to benefit the victims. Celtic musicians, Rick and Hillary Wagner played at the church a few weeks ago, and who along with Tim Schaiper make up *Jim's Red Pants*, and folk singers Ann and Phil Case, will perform at our church November 13 at 3 PM. Proceeds from the concert will go to the American Red Cross's work in the communities most devastated by the storms. These are professional musicians who want to respond to the suffering they have seen and I am grateful for their generosity on behalf of those in need.

Invite your friends. This will be both a delightful concert and an opportunity to assist our neighbors.

Tickets are \$7 all ages, and may be purchased from church members, at the Red Cross office in Greenville, or at the door the day of performance. Donations for relief efforts will also be accepted.

Leadership & Planning Conference – Herman II by Christel Brooks

With a newly installed minister and a re-energized congregation, now is the perfect time to examine the First Universalist Church mission, goals, traditions, and intentions. The Board of Directors and the Reverend Richard Venus invite interested congregation members to “Herman II, a Leadership Conference.”

What is the purpose of the conference?

Conference goals include asking ourselves a series of probing questions and seeking agreement on the answers. Marcia Venus will be our facilitator as we explore issues such as: What do we want our church community to be? What gives us a sense of purpose? What is our mission? What are the implications of this mission? What action do we need to take to get where we want to go?

Who is invited? This is a church leadership conference. If you are interested in influencing the church’s mission and sense of direction and see yourself playing a role in carrying out church actions/activities, then consider yourself a “leader.” You’re invited.

When and where is the conference?

Herman II will be held on two consecutive half-days: Friday evening, December 2nd 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The conference will begin with a soup supper Friday evening and end with lunch on Saturday. It will be held at Dick and Christel Brooks’ home. Directions will be provided to all attendees. **Please RSVP to Christel or Dick by November 26th.** Talk to Christel or Dick at church, or call their home (996-0834), or contact them via email at cdfarms@earthlink.net.

Why is the Leadership Conference called Herman II? Several years ago, our church held a similar leadership and planning conference. We struggled with a name to describe the event and ended up saying, “why not call it ‘Herman’?” The name stuck. So “Herman” is our playful name for an important event. It serves as a signal that while the purpose is serious, the process for getting there can be rewarding and, we hope, enjoyable.

Low Sugar Holiday Recipes from Roberta Feltman

PUMPKIN PIE

2 eggs
1/3 cup Splenda plus 2 Tblsp. dark brown sugar
or 2 Tblsp. Brown Sugar Twin
1 Tblsp. pumpkin pie spice
1 Tblsp. flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1 large can 2% or fat free evaporated milk
15 oz. can pumpkin

In large bowl, stir together eggs, milk and pumpkin. In small bowl, stir together Splenda, pumpkin pie spice, flour and salt. Add to pumpkin mixture.

Pour into 9" pastry lined pan and bake at 400 degrees 45 min to an hour, or until pumpkin is set and pastry is brown.

RED HOT JELLO SALAD

One 6 oz. no-sugar-added lemon jello
3 cups hot water
1/2 cup red hots candy
2 cups unsweetened apple sauce
6 oz. softened cream cheese

-Boil the red hots in the 3 cups water until dissolved. Pour over the jello in an 8 or 9 inch square pan. Stir to dissolve. Add the applesauce and chill until set.

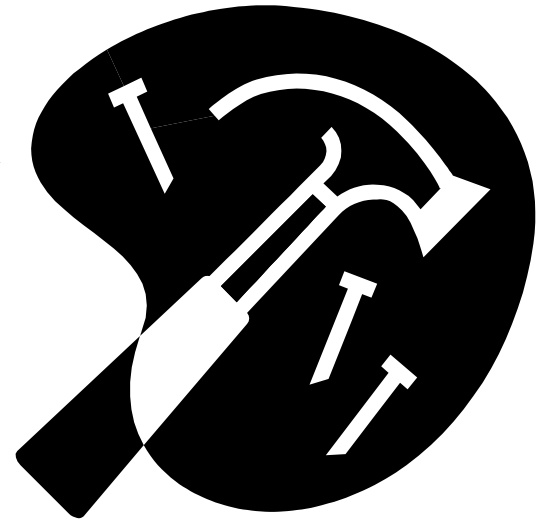
-Stir enough milk into the cream cheese for easy spreading consistency, and spread over the top of the jello mixture. Chill.

-You can add mayo, chopped pecans and celery to the cream cheese if you wish.

-Cut into 9 or 12 pieces. Serve on lettuce leaves, or from the pan. *continued on page 4*

Capital Projects Update from Lloyd Ketring

At the September meeting of the Board of Directors some of the evening's discussion was devoted to the topic of capital improvements to the church building. In August, Brian Brothers Painting & Restoration of Piqua was contracted to make much needed repairs to the steeple. The contract included replacing the rusted ridge caps, lining the metal box gutters, and painting the steeple, its overhang, its louvers, and the overhangs around the main church building. Their work was completed at the contract price of \$9,035, which was paid from savings accumulated during our time without a hired minister. A special thanks goes to Chas Godsey for his role in managing this project.



Looking to the future, a list of various capital projects was presented to the board for consideration by Chas Godsey and Lloyd Ketring as follows:

Front doors. The wooden front doors are in continual need of painting and do not seal out the winter weather very well. We propose replacing them with insulated steel doors that have crash bar hardware and automatic door-closers.

Office window. The wooden-sash clear glass window facing east in the minister's office is in poor condition. We propose replacing this window with a maintenance-free insulated vinyl sash fitted with a screen. A new window could easily be raised and lowered to provide additional air circulation in the summer.

Bell tower. The soft brick on the inside of the bell tower walls is deteriorating. We propose applying a coat of masonry plaster to the walls to seal the brick.

Basement windows. In 2003, we replaced three of the smaller sized basement windows that had been damaged by rot and termites with glass block at a cost of \$900. We propose replacing the five remaining windows in similar fashion. The three larger windows are in good condition, however the stone window wells on the outside need some attention.

Restrooms. We propose replacing the outdated fixtures with new water-saver toilets and modern lavatories and faucets. We would also want to consider making one restroom handicap accessible, which would require relocating some walls and widening a doorway.

Chimney. Moisture from the furnace exhaust causes deterioration of the brick on the inside of the chimney. Over time this can lead to weakening the chimney's structural integrity. Every year or two, the furnace flu vent must be removed to clean out the accumulation of brick dust at the base of the chimney. This blockage causes a buildup of carbon monoxide and moisture in the church. A solution to this problem would be to have the inside of the chimney lined with stainless steel.

In addition to these major items there are also many smaller projects around the church that we can see needing to be addressed in the next few years. More information will be coming as to priorities, cost estimates and fund-raising. The treasury has a building and property fund account that is used to segregate money specifically earmarked for these types of capital improvements. Currently, that fund has a zero balance. Contributions to the building and property fund are always welcome and should be noted as such for the treasurer to apply them properly. The board would appreciate hearing your ideas and input on maintaining and improving our church building.

Service of Installation

by Christel Brooks

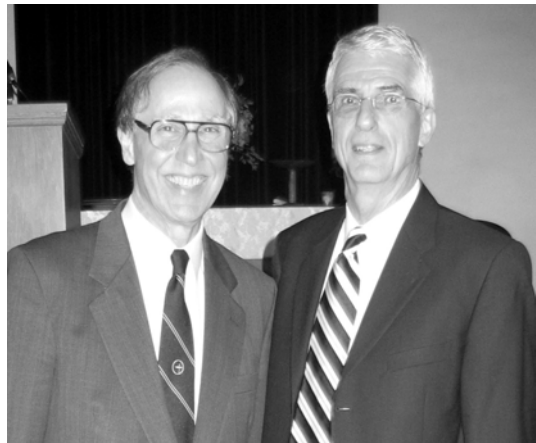
On Sunday, October 23, 2005, the relationship between the Reverend Richard Venus and the congregation of the First Universalist Church was formalized in a Service of Installation. The service was noteworthy for its beautiful special music, the thought-provoking message, and statements of commitment from both the congregation and the Reverend Venus.

The Reverend Kenneth Phifer of Ann Arbor, Michigan, gave the sermon, entitled "This We Call Ministry." Dr. Phifer, a long-time colleague and friend of the Reverend Venus, began his remarks, "Ministry is service. It is caring about people. It is sharing their joy and thus enriching it... It is being with people through the best and the worst times, affirming their worth as human beings in every circumstance of life." Dr. Phifer went on to describe five dualities (or "tensions") which often exist in ministry. He pointed out the tension between the conservative desire to preserve tradition and the progressive mission of congregations. Congregation members were still talking about the sermon long after the service was over. Dr. Phifer's words provided excellent food for thought for planning and carrying out the work of the church, as the congregation and Richard Venus move forward

to build their partnership.

As part of the formal installation, The Reverend Phifer also gave the "charge" to the Reverend Venus and to the congregation. Following the charge, the congregation and the Reverend Venus made statements of commitment to each other.

Beautiful music was threaded throughout the installation service. Adding to music from church musician, Lloyd Ketring, and the church choir were musical offerings from Hillary and Rick Wagner, Beth Farnham, and Margaret Schryver. We heard flutes, violin, guitar, piano, and voice. The music made this special event even more meaningful.



Dr. Ken Phifer & Rev. Richard Venus

Recipes continued from page 2

CINNAMON APPLE CROSTATA (8 servings)

- 1 refrigerated pie crust, room temperature
- 1/4 cup Splenda (or 1/2 cup sugar)
- 4 tsp. cornstarch
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 4 cups thinly peeled, sliced apples
- 1 tsp. granulated sugar
- 2 Tbsp. chopped pecans or walnuts

Preheat oven to 450. Place the crust on a rimmed, ungreased cookie sheet and lightly press out fold lines and seal any cracks.

Mix Splenda, cornstarch, and cinnamon. Add apples and toss gently to combine. Spoon apple mixture onto center of crust and distribute to within 2 inches of edges. Fold crust edges over filling to form 2 inch border and gently pleat to seal. Brush crust edge with water and sprinkle with 1 tsp. sugar. Bake for 15 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Sprinkle pecans over apples. Bake 5 to 15 minutes more, or until apples are just tender; make sure the crust doesn't over brown. (If you wish, spray some Pam on apples to keep from over browning.) Enjoy warm from the oven with vanilla ice cream or Cool Whip.

The REAL St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in present-day turkey, (not that Santa Claus guy) will be visiting The First Universalist Church of New Madison on Sunday, December 11, during the 10 AM service. This is a great opportunity to find out who the REAL St. Nicholas is, what he does, and why he is important, especially during this time of the year. Children and adults both will enjoy this close-up visit with a person known throughout the world.



Tim Nealeigh is a professional actor who specializes in recreating flesh-and-blood historic personages whom people can meet in the 21st century. He recreates the clothing, manners,

and language utilized by the characters he presents. He appears throughout the U.S. as Monsieur LeFarceur de Villeverte, a lace merchant during the French Revolution of 1789. He has appeared in several guises at the New Madison Public Library and occasionally does school programs for New Madison Elementary School students. He taught French, the humanities and theater at Tri-Village High School for 24 years, retiring in 2003 after 38 years in education.

Upcoming Events at the First Universalist Church of New Madison

First Thursday Theological Society

November 3, 7:30 PM

December 1, 7:30 PM

Advance reading is available at the church or at

www.firstuniversalistchurch.org

FISH Offering Sundays

November 6 & December 4

This time of year monetary donations are especially appreciated. In addition to providing food, FISH assists people with heating bills. There is a limit of \$25 per year for each household and checks are written directly to the utility company. To make a donation bring canned food, cash, or checks on FISH Sunday or mail a check to the church made payable to FISH.

Fall Concert

November 13, 3 PM

All proceeds go to the American Red Cross hurricane relief funds. Tickets \$7

Board of Directors Meetings

Everyone is welcome!

November 22, 7 PM

December 27, 7 PM

Union Service at Eldorado

November 20, 10 AM

130 Monroe Street

Followed by a meal provided by the Eldorado congregation

Holiday Decoration

November 27, after church

Church Retreat (Herman II)

December 2, 6-9 PM

December 3, 9 AM-1:30 PM

Both days at Dick and Christel's.

Guest at Your Table

December 4

Bring you boxes with donations to service

Mitten Tree

Bring new children's mittens and gloves anytime until the Holiday Party Dec. 12.

Holiday Party

December 12, 6 PM

Bring a dish to share and stay for bingo and \$5 gift exchange

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 6 PM

The above events will take place at the church unless otherwise stated.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

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



NOV. ANNIVERSARIES:

6 Emerson & Bonnie Behee

COFFEE HOUR:

Nov. 6 Jeanette Burns
Nov. 13 Christel & Dick
Brooks
Nov. 20 Service at Eldorado

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by emailing
info@firstuniversalistchurch.org**

Pampered Chef Fundraiser a Success

by Paula Godsey

Over 25 people attended the Pamper Chef party on September 22nd. Not only did we get to see a lot of wonderful products, taste food, and have fun, we once again carried on our good deeds raising money to be given to the Red Cross, for hurricane relief fund.

Virginia Burns and Paula Godsey organized the party along with Pampered Chef consultant Brenda Edger. Brenda had well over three full

tables of products and food to show at the party. We were able to generate \$1,382.75 worth of sales. Fifteen percent of the total guest sales and three dollars for all new show bookings along with Brenda's donation of her commission from the party and other monetary donations made our grand total \$525 in contributions. Way to go everyone!

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