



The Leaf

Oct/Nov 2006

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

Sunday Services 10 AM

Oct. 1: Richard Venus

Oct. 8: Mike Short

Oct. 15: Richard Venus

Oct. 22: John Johansen

Oct. 29: Richard Venus

Nov. 5: Richard Venus

Nov. 12: Valerie Ackerman

**Nov. 19: Union Service at
Eldorado**

Nov. 26: Richard Venus

Youth RE & Childcare
start at 10 AM

Upcoming Events

**UU Class for New/Old
Members**

Oct. 1, after services

FISH Offering Sundays

Oct. 1 & Nov. 5

Board Meetings

Everyone is welcome
7 PM Oct. 24 & Nov. 28

**1st Thursday Theological
Society**—revised format

7 PM Oct. 5 & Nov. 2

Harvest Sounds Concert

3 PM Nov. 5

Richard's Reflections

Frequently, as I peruse the morning paper, I ask myself, "What in the world can I do that makes any difference?" In Darfur, the government is preparing to again go to war against a rebel faction in the country that did not agree to the recently signed peace accords and estimates are that hunger and homelessness will be greater than before. In Guatemala, women and children who are among the world's poorest work in sweat shops where they are often paid less than \$1 a day. In South Dakota, the Lakota and Oglala Sioux struggle with poverty, drug abuse, and alcoholism. In addition, there is the war in Iraq, the fragile truce between Lebanon and Israel and the aftermath of Katrina and the tsunami in Indonesia.

This list of suffering seems almost endless and I am certain that you could add many other people and places where similar pain is all too real. You may ask, as I do, when these problems are so huge, what can I do? Well, I could simply say, yep, there's too much for me to fix so I'll make sure I take care of my own and hope that others will do the same. Some days that is what I say, but then I am reminded that I have not arrived at the comfortable place in my life alone. I could not have all that I have without the help of family and friends, but also from people who created scholarships, and work and study programs, social services and public works that have made and continue to make life possible for me.

We UU's begin our understanding of religion with the importance of community, the interconnected web of our existence. We are connected, which means we also reach out to those we may never met or know through our work with FISH, hospice care, Habitat for Humanity and the UU Service Committee, to name only a few.

In November, we in the New Madison Church will participate in the Guest at Your Table program, which is the fund-raising effort of the UU Service Committee. Through Churches Acting Together and other community organizations, the Service Committee is revitalizing a traditional mediation method used in Darfur to resolve conflicts. The STICH program in Guatemala provides skills-building training to strengthen women's leadership skills in their unions with the support of UUSC. On the Lakota reservation, the "JustWorks" project involves UU volunteers and local residents rebuilding a recreation center for youth. The Service Committee has also given more than \$4 million in hurricane and tsunami relief at home and abroad. Such tangible efforts make real our UU values and help me answer the question what can I do. I can help others by direct involvement in their lives, by attending the special benefit concert at our church for Hospice, and by reaching out through UUSC.

Our church has responded most generously in the past to appeals for help and I thank you for your care and concern.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 7 John Searls
- 11 Jennifer Hamelberg
- 12 Linda Searls
- 18 Ray Michel
- 22 Wells Behee
- 26 Sara Hamelberg

OCT. ANNIVERSARIES:

- 3 Janet & Kenny Baker

NOV. 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

Harvest Sounds News

We are pleased to announce that musicians have been chosen and have agreed to perform at 3 PM on November 5 at Harvest Sounds, the concert benefiting State of the Heart Home Health & Hospice.

The program will open with vocalist Jeannelle Benek, accompanied by Terri Fryman. Jeannelle is employed as a music therapist at Hospice. Terri is a talented keyboardist and accompanist.

Margaret Schryver and three other members of the Sinclair Community College Wind Symphony will perform the "Scott Joplin Suite" with piccolo, oboe, clarinet, and trombone.

Closing the program will be the Simple Gifts Quartet. The four male singers, including Joseph Helfrich, sing gospel, bluegrass, and a variety of music pleasing to all tastes.

Plan to be part of the excitement of Harvest Sounds!



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