



# The Leaf

September 07

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

## Sunday Services 10 AM

**Sept. 2: Richard Venus**

**Sept. 9: Richard Venus, Water Ceremony**

**Sept. 16: Richard Venus, Picnic in the Greenville City Park**

**Sept. 23: Donne Hayden**

**Sept. 30: Tammy Obeidallah**

Youth RE & Childcare  
start at 10 AM

## Upcoming Events

**FISH Offering Sundays**  
Sept. 2

**1st Thursday Theological Society**  
7 PM Sept. 6

**Board Meetings**  
Everyone is welcome  
7 PM Sept. 25

**Service and Picnic in Greenville City Park**  
10 AM Sept. 16, Shelter #6  
Services at 10:00, followed by a picnic lunch provided by Fred Meyer. Bring a joyful spirit, a good appetite, & a chair. Parking is by the swing sets, and the Shelter is near the playground.

## Richard's Reflections

At an address to the University of Chicago Divinity School, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia made sweeping and extreme comments regarding his contempt for democracy. Scalia is clear about his disdain for secular government as well as an outspoken judicial supporter of the death penalty. In the address, he approvingly quotes the apostle Paul: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God." He goes on to state that the state derives its power not from the consent of the governed, but from God. Justice Scalia did not explain the Constitution's deliberate omission of any reference to God and its very intentional separation of church and state.

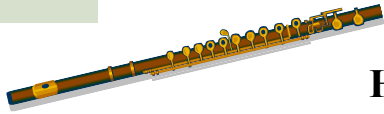
All this brings me to a related topic, the struggle over abortion rights, which began long before *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973. Since that decision the evangelical churches, particularly those of the religious right, have worked dili-

gently and tirelessly to eliminate a woman's choice to abort. It is clear that Justice Scalia has a skewed view of the Constitution, but it does not keep him using God as a reason for ruling against a woman's right to choose.

In this connection, I want to commend Governor Ted Strickland for his refusal to accept funds for abstinence only education in the Ohio schools. Studies have shown that these courses do not significantly change young people's attitudes and behavior regarding sexual intercourse. The reports indicated that equal numbers do and do not have sex before marriage. Declines in teenage pregnancy rates are attributed to more effective use of contraceptives. As the *New York Times* reported recently, "Reliance on abstinence-only sex education...looks increasingly foolish and indefensible."

I note all this to remind us of the recent Supreme Court decision to ban a particular abortion procedure and to note that this is an issue that was not decided simply by a Roman

*Continued on page 2*



## Harvest Sounds Concert

The First Universalist Church, New Madison, is pleased to announce the recipient of the church's seventh annual Harvest Sounds benefit concert. The church, founded in 1859, has a long history of involvement and outreach in the community and beyond. Much thought and consideration goes into choosing the deserving charity or organization that will receive all proceeds from each Harvest Sounds event. This year the recipient will be DCCA's Arts In Education programming.



Arts In Education is a program which brings professional performing artists to all Greenville and Darke Co. school children grades K through 12. During the 2006--2007 school year, Arts In Education provided quality entertainment for over 7,000 students. The artists also frequently appear at area retirement communities as continuing education and outreach programming.

Featured artists at this year's concert will be Betty Lou Johansen, Margaret Schryver, Lloyd Ketring, Keith Rawlins, and Suni McGrath. Betty Lou Johansen is a rehearsal pianist, an in-demand accompanist, and keyboardist at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in West Milton. She will be playing Theme from Concerto, A Minor, Op. 16 by Edvard Grieg. Margaret Schryver has had a long career as the piccoloist in Sinclair Community College's Wind Symphony and Concert Band; Lloyd Ketring is pianist, organist, and lifetime member of First Universalist. They will present a piccolo and piano duet entitled Winsey by Ricky Lombardo. A talented vocalist and instrumentalist, Keith Rawlins is the Artistic Director of DCCA. He has performed solo and with his bands at area festivals, and has been involved with theatrical productions. Suni McGrath, a musician of renown, is a professional twelve string guitarist and vocalist who has studied, performed and composed since age 13. He appears regularly at area venues and coffee houses. His recordings have received top reviews and are in demand by guitar and music enthusiasts.

The Harvest Sounds benefit concert will be held at First Universalist Church, 331 East Washington St., New Madison, on Sunday, November 4 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8, and will be available from church members, DCCA, or at the door the day of performance. Following the concert, there will be a reception honoring the performers. For information you may call 937-548-2480 or 937-547-0908.



### *Richard's Reflections continued from page 1*

Catholic majority. Indeed, the five justices voting to ban the procedure were all Catholic, but as the news reported, American Catholics are very much a two-party religion. The Catholic vote has typically split in recent presidential elections, and Catholic elected officials fill the top ranks of both parties. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senator Patrick Leahy and the 2004 presidential nominee, Senator John Kerry, are all Catholics - and Democrats who support abortion rights. One's choice of political party is not a deciding factor any more than choice of religion fixes one's votes or behavior toward abortion.

I appreciate your willingness to put up with my extensive ramblings in this article but I needed to relate several of the issues that are before us as Unitarian Universalists who have consistently voted in opposition to the death penalty and in favor of a woman's right to choose an abortion.

## ***Eyes Wide Open Display Exhibited at NM Church***

More than 350 boots were solemnly placed in the NM Universalist Unitarian churchyard Sunday, April 22. Each pair represented one of Ohio's soldiers who died in the fighting in Iraq since the war began. Along with the boots were a hundred pair of civilian shoes representing the thousands of Iraqi soldiers and civilians who have also been killed in the war.



### **The Choir Begins**

It is hoped that on the third Sunday of each month all willing to bring their voice to the church choir will do so by attending a rehearsal beginning at 9:15 am and preparing to sing at the morning service. Because we will be at the park on the third Sunday in September, Richard will bring music then for our debut in October.

## **The President's Column**

As your new president, I would like to welcome everyone to the new church year at The New Madison Unitarian Universalist Church.

This should be an exciting year for the Church. We will be involved in the Community Outreach Program, The Fall Concert, and as usual, we again will have the FISH Program. Hopefully we can participate in many other projects as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that there are several new guest speakers lined up for the coming year.

On behalf of Richard and me, we look forward to seeing you on Sundays and hope that you might from time to time bring a guest.

Fred Meyer

## **The Steeple Is Steady**

Thanks to Charles Godsey's diligence, the New Madison UU church's belfry remains upright and solid. His efforts did not come any too soon, given the workmen's report that by the end of the summer it was likely that the steeple might have tumbled down. Only the excellent craftsmanship of Randy Bird of Bird Construction kept the bricks from coming loose. The work had been completed as of the end of July and the structure is again sound.

The cost of the repair was slightly more than \$10,000. According to Chas, "It was a very reasonable price considering the extent and quality of the work."

## SEPT. BIRTHDAYS:

- 4 Ellen Teller
- 5 Laura Moeckel Willis
- 6 Louie Leedle
- 7 Della Cassity
- 8 Dennis Burns
- 11 Paul Britner
- 15 Barbara Burns
- 18 Bill Burkett
- 18 Lori Lucas



## SEPT. ANNIVERSARIES:

- 5 Craig & LuAnn Dubbs
- 5 Janet & Roger Cassity
- 19 Margaret & Patrick Schryver
- 23 Jon & Tammy Ketring

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## Congregation's Generosity Evident with GAYT Giving

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is the social justice arm of the Unitarian Universalist Association and represents UUA congregations in aid projects throughout the world, and in particular brings disaster relief to people devastated by hurricanes, floods and civil strife. One example are coordinated campaigns by several local UUSC chapters that include writing letters to members of congress and to oil and energy companies who provide support for the military that is doing much of the killing in Darfur, where genocide rages against the civilian populations of many villages. Some 90 people at the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, NY wrote 540 letters to members of Congress, the Senate Majority Leader and President Bush urging a stop to the killing and demanding that leaders negotiate for peace. UUSC headquarters under Monika Parikh (617) 868-6600 coordinates these efforts at [drumbeatfordarfur@uusdc.org](mailto:drumbeatfordarfur@uusdc.org).

The NM church's Guest at Your Table project invites every member to collect money in a special gift box for several weeks prior to Thanksgiving. The funds collected are used for the work of the UUSC. ***This year we raised \$686!*** The church received a special banner from the Service Committee in recognition and thanks for our generous contribution.

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