

The Grosse Pointe Unitarian

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10:30 AM

IN THE BEGINNINGS

Edward Sharples

Edward Sharples is retired from Wayne State University where among many roles he served as Chair of the Department of English, Professor of English, University Ombudsman and Dean of the College of Lifelong Learning. In addition, he served 18 years on the Ferndale Board of Education, 14 of them as president of the board. He is a former board president of the Birmingham Unitarian Church where he actively participates in numerous capacities. He will discuss the Book of Genesis, chapters one and two from the perspective of a humanist.

March 14, 2010

10:30 AM

FOUND; ART AND ARTIFACTS

Reverend Mitra Rahnema

March is the Seventy-First anniversary of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. Today we will take notice of the things we pass by every Sunday morning. Let us celebrate the art and artifacts, which make our church home.



Minister's Musings

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Members and Friends,

Last Sunday a member said, laughing, "Reverend Mitra you make me have too much to do. You say I have to be compassionate and giving, justice seeking and honorable, loving and life affirming, a participant and also care about the world! It is too much."

What a wonderful comment. Yes! The answer is, Yes. Not, Yes—you should be overwhelmed. But, YES! Find the Yes in you! What this means is something a colleague recently reminded me of; words from the Reverend Dr. Howard Thurman who said,

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go do it. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive."

Coming alive is a hard thing to do these days. It is the middle of winter and life seems to be sleeping. The world is covered in a blanket of snow and deep breaths can chill the bones. We are all waiting for signs of spring.

As I watch the passing days of winter, I have been musing about passion, the kind of passion that comes from within an individual. It is passion that leads us to move, speak, and breathe with hope. Passion can be expressed through love, sarcasm, anger, desperation, longing, among other things. Passion is the waking expression of something within that has emerged. That is why religion is a manifestation of passion; it is that which is on the very edge of emergence. What a blessing it is to witness the abundance of passion in our religious community.

Ironically, passion is fed by a deeper stillness. The kind of stillness you find in the winter, stillness that opens our hearts and allows us to breathe deeply. For when we are still, even for a minute, our longings, hopes, and love can become present. In our stillness we can find power and clarity. And it is in the root of both stillness and passion that will lead us to be the people we want to be. To be, as our member expressed, compassionate and giving, justice seeking and honorable, loving and life affirming, a participant in a world we care about!

Let us live out the rest of winter with intention. The intention to find a stillness that will sustain our passions. The passion found at the church these days is rooted in you, the individual. Therefore, may our individual passions create a church community where each and all (re)discover what makes you "come alive."

With Love,
Rev. Mitra



Religious Education Lessons

PARENTS have asked me “Why should I bring my child to church?” My answer is: Children should come to our church for the same reasons as adults;

- Because the church experience speaks to them about their values and beliefs;
- Because in our church they feel an acceptance as they truly are;
- Because in our UU churches children can ask their questions about the meaning of life and religion and not feel threatened.
- Because they are loved in church, even when they think that they don’t want to be there.

The children need us as wise parents to bring them to church, because they cannot bring themselves. See you in church this Sunday and hopefully, every Sunday with your children.

LOWER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS on March 7th will continue to explore our UU History with the topic, “Voice and Voting Counts”. Then on March 14th they will explore the topic, “A Peaceful World”.

UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS on March 7th will continue explore UU History “The Adventures of our People: Fannie Farmer”. Then on March 14th they will review the history of GPUC for “Founder’s Day”.

JUNIORS on March 6th all juniors are to be at church by 1:00 p.m. to set up for the Spaghetti Dinner and on March 7th they will prep for the Spaghetti Dinner. On March 14th the juniors will study the history of our church for “Founder’s Day”.

SENIORS on March 7th will attend the Spaghetti Dinner as a group at 6:00 p.m. and on March 14th will attend the church service at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate “Founder’s Day”.

SPAGHETTI DINNER- Sunday, March 7th, 5-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Save this date to support our junior class fundraiser for their future Boston trip. As always, the spaghetti will be great and the evening will be relaxing and lots of fun. The tickets for adults will be \$10.00 and students ten and under will be \$8.00. You don’t want to miss this wonderful meal and time for fellowship.

NEW RE NAME TAG RACK-Please stop by the RE wing and see our new RE Name Tag Rack. Our very own George Gray made it for our students. Thank you George for your time, talent and kindness!

DRE CLUSTER MEETING-The GPUC/RE program is hosting the Northern Cluster Meeting for all DRE’s on Friday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. This is a monthly meeting for Michigan DRE’s to come together and discuss programs and share information and resources. It will also be a time to share our beautiful church and introduce our staff to other DRE’s.

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

ATTENTION MEN!

The **Men's Book Discussion Group** has lost members in the past several months. If you like to read and are able to meet the first Monday of the month from 7:30 pm until 9:00pm, please think about joining the men so the group will keep going. See below for the upcoming books. Remember, if you become a member you will have a voice in choosing the books for the next season.

MEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, March 1, 7:30pm in the church. The men discuss, **American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson** by Joseph J. Ellis. Monday, April 5, **Wonderful Life** by Stephan Jay Gould. A description of the biggest fossil find ever...a collection of invertebrate remains dating from the Cambrian (550 million years ago) dug out of the Burgess Shale in British Columbia. Monday, May 3, **My Life With the Chimpanzees** by Jane Goodall. Read about Ms. Goodall's relationship with the animals in the natural world, making her the world famous conservationist she is today. Monday, June 7, **The Benjamin Franklin Reader** by Walter Isaacson. A collection of Franklin's own writings throughout his lifetime. Included in the text are his essays written under an alias to make attacks on social shortcomings or directly against others who had in some way made enemies of a young Franklin.

UNDERSTANDING GRIEF

The class continues on Tuesday evenings for those who have signed up.
March, 2, 16, 23 and April 6 from 7:00pm until 9:00pm

WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The women meet on Thursday, March 18 at 5:30pm to discuss **Garlic and Sapphires** by Ruth Reichl. Reichl was the restaurant critic for the New York Times in the 90's. She used disguises so as to be unnoticed in the restaurants and she goes into how she assumed the personae of the characters she impersonated and how it changed how she viewed the world
Ann Lipsitz will lead our discussion and Ann Parker and Audrey Brosowski will provide refreshments. A \$2 donation toward refreshments will be collected on the night of the discussion.
Our next 2 books: April 15, **Cezanne's Quarry** by Barbara Corrado Pope.
May 20, **People of the Book** by Geraldine Brooks.

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, April 2, 7pm until 9pm.

Theological Chat led by Rev. Mitra Rahnema. "**Good and Evil.**" Information to follow.

Movie Night

Friday, April 23rd.

Before Stonewall. If you have Netflix you can stream this movie or order it. We are working on getting one for the church. More information to follow. \$8 per person includes movie, dinner and discussion. Cash Please! Sign up in the foyer.

Sign up for above events in the church foyer. If you need child care at no cost please be sure to indicate on the sign up sheets and to check with Julie Artis in the RE wing.

-Jill Crane, Director, Adult Religious Enrichment

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

For regular updates and information on our Welcoming Congregation Program, visit the website and click on the new link listed as "A Welcoming Congregation".

March will be one of WC's busiest months, highlighted by a visiting guest panel from PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). This workshop will provide us with a very special opportunity to hear first hand about the issues and personal stories of parents and friends of lesbian and gay individuals. You won't want to miss it. We're expecting a good turn out, so please be sure to sign-up in advance so that our lunch provisions will be appropriate. Here is the calendar of events through the rest of our church year:

MARCH

- 7th -PFLAG Panel & Discussion Session
(Workshop #9)
- 14th -Workshop #3: The Common Elements of Oppression
- 28th -Workshop #4: Gender Socialization & Homophobia

APRIL

- 18th -Workshop #5: Racism & Homophobia
- 23rd -Second Movie night; title:
"Before Stonewall"

MAY

- 2nd -Workshop #8: "Religion & Homosexuality"
- 14th - Book discussion with Jud Cole; Title:
"What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality" Author: Daniel Helminiak
- 16th -"Workshop #12: Transgender Identity: What it Means
- 22nd -"Switch" Movie Screening & Discussion - Guest: Brooks Nelson

JUNE:

6th -"Workshop #6" HIV/AIDS Guest:
Dr. Crane

MEMORIAL ANNOUCEMENT

Laura Spurr, long time community friend, died Friday, February 19th, 2010. Laura was in California when she suffered a fatal heart attack. A memorial service will be held at the church on April 3rd, 2010 at 11am. Please keep Laura's husband Stephen Spurr and sons Nathaniel and Josiah in your thoughts at this time.

With love,
Rev. Mitra Rahnema

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Please mark your calendars to join your fellow Unitarians for the annual Fellowship Dinner, this year on Saturday, March 20th. The Fellowship Dinner is one of the few opportunities each year to get all the members together for a social event. We gather for dinner, a little entertainment and a time to reflect on what this church means to each of us and to each other. Please plan to join us as we kick off the canvass drive for next year.

-Russell Chavey, Canvass committee

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT VILLAGE AT ALLIANCE LUNCH MARCH

Exciting changes for the Village in Grosse Pointe City include an expanded recipe of economic activity, which would allow taller buildings and a wider arrange of retail, residential and office uses in downtown areas, currently zoned for office use only.

Our speaker is John R. Jackson, Grosse Pointe resident and planning consultant for the

city, who will outline the status of planning and zoning changes and how plans would create a more economically viable and more vibrant place for people to shop, dine and live.

The lunch begins at noon on Tuesday, March 9, in the Olympia Brown Annex. Program follows lunch with time arranged for Q&A. Please call Shirley Reeves at 313-822-4651 for reservations. Your guests are always welcomed.

VISITORS STILL WELCOME

Dan Basinski is at Belmont Nursing Center Room 71. The facility is located at 19840 Harper, Harper Woods. He will be there for awhile and would welcome visitors.

-Caring Committee

TUTORING AT CLARK SCHOOL TO START IN MARCH

Our outreach effort to assist the Detroit Public Schools will begin in March at the nearby Clark School (K-8), just three blocks past Mack at the end of Berkshire. The school is eager to have our volunteers tutor students in reading. The first orientation on Friday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. will feature a demonstration of one of the reading programs used in the school as well as introduce tutors to the building and its facilities.

If you're interested in tutoring or other volunteer work at Clark School, please contact Ann Helm at 313-886-1152 to tell her your preferences for grade level and the day and time to tutor. Also, Susie Boynton can be reached at 313-885-0824. For those who cannot make the first orientation, another one will be scheduled in April.

-Susie Boynton for Outreach

UU CHOIR FESTIVAL

Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 21st at 3:00 p.m. Our Church choir will be participating with six others in a Choir Festival at Northwest UU Church. Each choir director has been asked to choose two selections that all the choirs are rehearsing. At the Festival the singers will combine into one massed choir of about 100 voices to perform all the chosen pieces. This will be a gala occasion with a wide variety of interesting choral music, ranging from a piece based on plainsong chant to African-American spirituals. Northwest UU church is in Southfield by the Lodge Freeway at 23925 Northwestern Highway. There is no charge for attending.

2009-2010 PHONE DIRECTORIES

The new phone directories have arrived. Please pick up your copy in the church lobby. Thank you for your patience.

-Candy Dunn, Office Administrator