

VOLUME LXII, Number 2
September 11, 2011

Editor: Vicky Keating
newsletter@gpuc.us

September 18, 2011

10:30 AM

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

Reverend Shelley Page
Worship Associate, Joseph Buttiglieri

Let us celebrate the start of the church year by dedicating our Religious Education teachers and blessing our children as they begin their year of learning. We will also reflect on the ways that we all learn by living in community at church. We'll explore how the congregation *is* the curriculum for people of all ages.

September 25, 2011

10:30 AM

SACRED BALANCE

Reverend Shelley Page
Worship Associate, Tonya Wells

This Autumn Equinox offers us time to reflect on balance in our lives. What does balance look and feel like? Let's look at some ways we can live in balance in the 21st Century.



Wonderings

Dear GPUC Members and Friends,

As we come together joyfully to start our new church year, we also pause to remember the attacks on September 11. It's actually rather difficult to call this time a commemoration. While it's true that September 11 happened ten years ago, we are still very much living in the aftermath each and every day. It is a story still unfolding, and we are all characters playing our parts as we go about our daily lives. Theologian Serene Jones said this past week that it is hard to memorialize something still happening, where old wounds are not healed and new wounds are still being inflicted.

New Yorker journalist Hendrik Hertzberg observed that the 150th anniversary of the Civil War can serve as perspective for us about 9-11. The Civil War traumatized the nation in ways we cannot even begin to really imagine in 2011. Ten years out from the end of that war, the nation was still reeling from it, making some progress and often backsliding into the fear and violence that divides and hurts. In many ways, we are still dealing with the aftermath of that great national trauma from 150 years ago. And so, at the tenth anniversary of 9-11, feelings are much too fresh to be fully memorialized but it is fitting, right and good for us to pause, take a deep breath together and mark the day. The President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Rev. Peter Morales, offered these words as part of his perspective that he wishes to share with Unitarian Universalists. He said ". . . let us also remember that the events of September 11, 2001, failed to destroy us. They did not diminish our compassion for others, did not take from us our ability to love, to heal, or to gather together as a loving faith community. And in the aftermath of that tragic day, we have been given the opportunity to demonstrate our deepest religious values."

It is our enabling responses of care and generosity that will help us through the days and years ahead. Let us remember the outpouring of compassion and love that flowed from us all in the days following 9-11. Let us strive together to live from that place of deep compassion, knowing that life is inherently uncertain, we are always vulnerable and never completely safe. But we can choose love over fear as we move forward together. Let us begin, yet again, in love.

Blessings,
Reverend Shelley Page

CHAT WITH REVEREND SHELLEY

We'll be getting to know each other in many ways in the days to come. Sometimes it's nice just to have an informal chat and share some food together. I'll be eating at different places on different days at different times around the area. I'm picking places with flexible seating and inexpensive pricing. Feel free to just drop in and join me so we can simply chat. Upcoming occasions include:

Thurs., Sept. 15, 6-7 pm, Dinner at Mack Avenue Diner at 19841 Mack at Huntington in the Woods
Thurs., Sept. 22, 8-9 am, Breakfast at Harry's at 15506 Mack Avenue in the Park.



Religious Education News

I want to identify a few items we need for our Religious Education Program. We need a **Volunteer Army** of positive, energetic volunteers to guide and be examples to our UU students. In the next week parents will receive their teaching assignments. We will also be holding a teacher training workshop for new and returning teachers. What can you do? Read your teaching assignments, be ready when it is your turn, read the information on the topic and, above all, ask questions when you need answers.

I am very pleased to report our curriculum coordinators have been working hard to provide quality lessons for our teachers. I am also grateful for the parents who have already volunteered to teach these outstanding lessons. I am even more pleased that we have many returning and new students who are ready to explore the UU curriculum our curriculum coordinators and teachers have prepared. We will have a wonderful year together at GPUC Religious Education, learning about World Religions.

Religious Education Lessons and Events

Lower and Upper Elementary Students on Sunday, September 18 and Sunday, September 25 will develop their Code of Conduct and begin their Introduction to World Religions.

Junior students on Sunday, September 18 will explore a lesson on "I am." Sunday, September 25 they will have their first introduction to World Religions.

Senior students on Sunday, September 18 will meet at church and attend the service. They will then meet in Room 2 of the RE wing to plan their Pinery Trip to Canada. Saturday & Sunday, September 24 and 25 the Senior class will be on their camping trip to the Pinery. If you have any questions, please call Ann Ottenhoff. Come into our circle, and call if you would like to help in the RE Program.

-- Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

Something New! The UU Association has a program called **Unitarian Universalist Common Read**. This year's selection is: "**Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation**", by Eboo Patel. A remarkable account of growing up Muslim in America from one of the most prominent faith leaders in the United States, "**Acts of Faith**" is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people, and of the world-changing potential of an interfaith youth movement.

The [Unitarian Universalist Common Read](#) encourages all Unitarian Universalists to read and discuss a single book. The 2010-2011 common read, "The Death of Josseline," spawned discussion groups and social action and heightened awareness of the challenges facing undocumented immigrants in the American Southwest.

Decisions regarding this book discussion are underway. It is open to all who care to participate. We can obtain multiple copies through the UU Bookstore. Please sign up if you are interested in participating in this new and exciting all UU program.

Sunday Morning Meditations, led by Zachariah Bobby, continue at 9:30 am in the Religious Education wing. Child care is provided; the sitters will be there by 9:25 am. Zach asks that you bring an open mind, a cushion or zafu/zabuton if you're really fancy and comfortable clothes.

The popular **Writing Workshop** facilitated by Mary Beth Smith and Pat Gillis returns to the **1st and 3rd Mondays** of the month in the church library from 5 until 7pm beginning on **Monday, Sept. 19th**. Bring your writings for discussion, and helpful hints -- or just come and listen. No sign up necessary but if you need child care please see Julie Artis in the RE Wing.

Buddhism Lectures return once a month with the first one on **Friday, September 23rd at 7:30 pm**. Please sign up for these lectures so that we may determine which room in the church to reserve.

The Women's Book Discussion Group begins its new season on **Thursday, September 22, at 5:30 pm** in the church gallery. **The 2011-2012 booklist** can be found on the sign up table and on the website. We have decided to go back to meeting the **3rd Thursday** of the month -- however the first meeting will be the **4th Thursday**. Please sign up. On Thursday, **September 22nd** Jane Hoey will lead the discussion on "**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**" -- often considered Twain's greatest masterpiece. Combining his raw humor and startlingly mature material, Twain developed a novel that directly attacked many of the traditions the South held dear at the time of its publication. Huckleberry Finn is the main character, and through his eyes the reader sees and judges the South, its faults, and its redeeming qualities. Huck's companion Jim, a runaway slave, provides friendship and protection while the two journey along the Mississippi on their raft.
Refreshment Assistants: Erika Baer and Evelyn Badzik.

Introducing Spirit Play Come, relax, and try out some different spiritual practices this year as we offer **Friday Night Spirit Play** once a month. We'll start out on **Friday, September 30 from 7:30-9 pm** with exploration of chanting with Rev. Shelley. No experience necessary, just come and discover the

power of chanting to both calm and energize your spirit after a long week. Teens are welcome to join the adults. Child care provided with sign up.

New UU Classes Forming Many folks who are new to our faith want to learn more about **Unitarian Universalist** history, theology, social justice, denominational matters, and simply what it means to be UU. We are forming a six-session series of two-hour classes with Rev. Shelley to help you explore. These sessions will be geared for people who are new to our faith, and those considering membership. We want to accommodate your schedules as much as we can. If you are interested, please contact Jill Crane by Saturday, September 17 with your preferences for these potential times and dates: Tuesday, Thursday or Friday evenings; Saturday afternoons; or Sundays 12-2 pm with lunch provided at a \$3 donation. Child care will be provided at any of these times. We will schedule the sessions after receiving your input.

Men's Book Discussion Group If you are interested in re-forming a Men's Book Discussion Group to meet (possibly) on Monday evenings, please indicate on sign up sheet and/or see John Artis.

Attending Adult Religious Enrichment events enlightens us and broadens our sense of fellowship.

-- Jill Crane, Director of Adult Religious Enrichment

ALLIANCE LUNCHESES BEGIN IN OCTOBER

Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 11, for the first Alliance lunch of the season. Speaker will be neurologist Dr. Christine Liff. The subject is "Normal Aging Versus Dementia." You may be pleasantly surprised with her informed report. Further information in next newsletter.

-- Ruth Cain for The Alliance

THE GPUC AUCTION IS COMING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011!

Mark your calendars for our major fundraiser of the year. This year, there's a new twist. So batten down your hatches and get ready for a bit of pirate adventure!

You can participate by:

- donating an item or a service for bidding,
- donating food and drink for the party,
- helping with preparations and clean-up,
- and – of course -- by bidding on items at the auction.

This event takes the entire GPUC crew to hoist the sails and find the treasure. We'll have grog and grub and a little entertainment. Silent auction, live auction, tin can auction, raffle. You'll be able to bid on a wonderful variety of items, services, parties, and events provided by our members. And even if you don't bid, enjoy Fun and Fellowship for all!

Get ready for ...

U.U.'s of the Caribbean: the Search for Hidden Treasure!!!

Contact Christy Winder or Robin Ramsay with questions or to volunteer.

Christy: 313-884-5237, Cell 313-378-2408

Robin: 313-882-6557, Cell 313-702-0062

YOU ARE NEEDED!

The Fall Blood Drive, sponsored by the G.P. Community Blood Council, will be held on Thursday, October 20, 1:30 pm -7:30 pm. The drive will be held at the St. James Lutheran Church, 170 McMillan (at Kercheval). For the blood drive please use the side doors, park in the gated lot and bring ticket in for validation. The need for blood is great at this time! If you can possibly give, please let me know and also the time you would like.

-- For Outreach, Pat Freiwald (823-3952)

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE CHURCH

Calling All Fabric Mavens: Do you have some fabric stashed in cupboards, closets or drawers? Would you like to give it to a "good home"? We would love some of your extra fabric, remnants and even yarn or ribbons for use in worship and religious education. If you have some fabric to spare, please drop it off in the office and we will put it to good use. Thanks!

Round Table Round-Up: Reverend Shelley has re-arranged the furniture in her office to make it easier for visitors to sit comfortably. She could use a small round table, preferably wood. If you have a potential table that you would like to donate, please let her know and she'll fill you in on the details. Thanks!

CROSSROADS FOOD BANK - HOW GPUC HELPS - IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW

Here at GPUC we have lots of new faces, many of whom may not know of the work we do with the Crossroads East Food Bank, or how they may participate in this effort. This on-going project is a part of GPUC Community Outreach.

Crossroads East is located at 14641 East Jefferson Ave., just a few miles south of us, and it supports our adjacent neighbors. This year Crossroads is about to celebrate its 40th anniversary! Crossroads began in 1971, when a small group of committed people joined together to lend a hand up to the people in the neighborhood of St. Paul's Cathedral. Now, forty years later, Crossroads has helped to change the lives of more than 103,000 people in the metro Detroit area and beyond.

Here at GPUC, following a tradition founded by member Carrie Peebles many years ago, we designate the first Sunday of each month to be our First Sunday Food Sharing day, or "FSFS" as it has been called. Occasionally, FSFS may take place on an alternate Sunday because of holidays. This event is also listed on the weekly email sent to members from the church office. On FSFS days, we are all encouraged to bring in canned and boxed foods. If preferred, you may make a monetary donation towards the purchase of such items as well. Even though we send out email reminders on the Thursday or Friday before FSFS, we leave a small set of shelves in the coatroom at all times so that contributing is easy for everyone. If you know you will not be attending the service on that day, or forget your items, you can always bring in anything you wish to contribute and leave it on those shelves either before or after that date, and it will be transported to Crossroads during that month.

In order for clients to utilize Crossroads, they must make an appointment and meet with a counselor. The counselor assesses their need, and also works to steer them in directions for different types of assistance, as well as the securing of food. These may include medical care, transportation, job placement, clothing and/or shelter needs.

GPUC, however, focuses its efforts mainly on the donation of food, and this is accomplished in several ways. Besides the monthly FSFS collection, we also make a weekly Saturday "bread run" to the Kroger store in the Village. The surplus bread and baked goods collected are then delivered on Mondays, when Crossroads re-opens after being closed on the weekend. In addition, money and checks that are donated are used to purchase "high priority" items that the Crossroads volunteers or director designate as special needs. Generally, these are high-protein foods. GPUC is one of the only suppliers of fresh eggs (at least 20 dozen/month) and many gallons of fresh milk, which are highly prized foods for mothers with children. Canned meats such as tuna, chicken and salmon are always needed. Peanut butter is another important staple. Combination foods such as Chef Boyardee canned pastas with meat, beef stew, chili, or macaroni and cheese are always in demand. You can be sure that every effort is made to stretch the dollars we collect! Cash or checks can be dropped into the designated jar. (For tax deduction purposes checks should be made out to **GPUC - with "Crossroads" or "Food Sharing" at the bottom.**) The cash and checks are used to shop for the best prices and sales at many different stores, and it is a FACT that every penny donated goes directly to purchase these items for Crossroads East!

Are we making a difference? Yes! Here are our yearly pound totals for the past five years: 2010 = **10,204 lbs.**, 2009=**6,012 lbs.**, 2008=**5,354 lbs.**, 2007=**4,450 lbs.**, 2006=**3,004 lbs.** We are already on target in 2011 to surpass our 2010 total, so at this time it appears that we will be well over 30,000 pounds in less than 6 years!

The generous hearts and helping hands at GPUC are having a huge impact on improving the food supply for our neighbors in need. If you have additional questions or wish to take a more active role in this process, please contact either Larry or Janet Peplin.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Nametags

Kindly remember to wear your nametag as a courtesy to Rev. Shelley and others, who are new to our congregation. If you need a nametag, please contact Candy in the office by phone 313-881-0420 ext. 10 or by email: gpuc@gpuc.us

Ink Cartridge Recycling

Please bring your empty ink cartridges to the office to be recycled at Staples for store credit. Since January 2011, to date we have received \$320 in ink recycling credits - many thanks!

Coffee Signup

The new coffee sign-up sheet has been posted in the coffee kitchen, please stop by and volunteer for a service or two or more. Fair trade coffee has been purchased from Equal Exchange through the "The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Coffee Project". For each pound of coffee, tea, or chocolate purchased by UU congregations through the project, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to UUSC programs that support the human rights and social justice work of community-based cooperatives in coffee-growing regions. For more information about this program and a list of products offered, please visit their website: <http://www.equalexchange.coop/uusc>

-- Candy Dunn, Office Administrator

JOIN THE GPUC NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL TEAM!

Opportunity! The GPUC Newsletter editors, Tom Roberts and Vicky Keating, are looking for a volunteer to join the team. This is a rewarding job! The work consists primarily of editing articles submitted by members and staff for publication in the twice-monthly newsletter. The work load is light, evenly divided between the editors, and can be accomplished from any location with internet access. If you are familiar with MS Word and would like to help with this interesting and important volunteer job for the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church please contact Candy Dunn, Office Administrator, at 313-881-0420, or let Tom or Vicky know.

-- The Newsletter Editors.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The GPUC Newsletter will be published on the following dates during the 2011-2012 church year:

Sept. 25, 2011		Feb. 12, 2012	Feb. 26, 2012
Oct. 9, 2011	Oct. 23, 2011	Mar. 11, 2012	Mar. 25, 2012
Nov. 13, 2011	Nov. 27, 2011	April 8, 2012	April 22, 2012
Dec. 4, 2011	Dec. 18, 2011	May 13, 2012	May 27, 2012
Jan. 8, 2012	Jan. 22, 2012	June 10, 2012	

The deadline for submission of articles is at noon on the above publishing dates. Please send all articles to newsletter@gpuc.us

-- The GPUC Newsletter Editors