



The Newsletter for

January 2007

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

UU News

January Service Schedule

January 7: 10:30 am *Resolution: Getting Bigger and Wider* [Rev. V Elaine Strawn]
Every year we resolve to change ourselves, usually getting “smaller” is in the mix. What if we resolved to broaden...our perspective, that is!

January 14: 10:30 am *Martin Luther King Sunday* [Tim Breiner & Dan O'Rourke]
Let Justice Roll Down Like a Stream! The service will focus on his prophetic words and ask, “What do UU have to say about Dr. King today?”

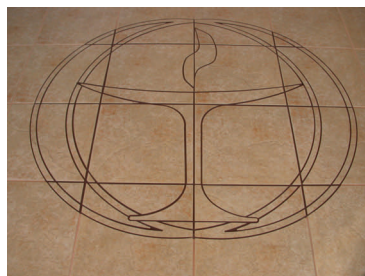
Monday, January 15: 7:00pm *The Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Service*
Join the larger community in at Wooster High School’s auditorium for music (including our choir!), and the prophetic challenge to become the peacemakers of our contemporary world.

January 21: 10:30 am *Every Women’s House* [Katherine J. Ezawa]
This year’s Social Action Series focuses on justice for women, we begin from the perspective of working to heal and to end domestic abuse.

January 21: 4:30pm *Evensong: An Alternative Service & Potluck* [Wire and Strawn] Please look for the explanation in the Minister’s Column on page 3.

January 28: 10:30 am *Dragons and Fire* [Rev. V. Elaine Strawn]
The Chinese and the Irish differ on their significance, but dragons have been breathing fire for centuries...we’ll look at what happens when the firebreathers “get religion.”

**Many Thanks to Eric Astrachan
at ArtFind Tile
for our beautiful new lobby
floor. Eric’s father was a UU
and the floor is
in honor of his memory.**



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From the Board

It is with regret that the Board accepted the resignation of Skip Nault, who cited an impossible schedule as the only reason. We have charged the Nominating Committee, chaired by Tim Breiner, to select a replacement to complete Skip's term.

Skip has joined our fledgling Annual Canvass Committee, along with Beth Borham and me. Michael Jaeb will design our brochure, and we'll complete the committee and work on a timeline early in the new year. The annual canvass provides the dollars needed to support staff salaries, programming, and our new building. Members and friends will be asked to donate/pledge to support the budget. Our income comes from various fundraisers, investment income, any grants we secure, the Sunday offerings, and the annual canvass. The budget process has begun, with the new Finance Committee collecting fiscal year July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008 budgets from committees (**due to Anne Wilson by Jan. 10th!**).

Once committee budgets have been submitted, and the Finance Committee projects income and expenses, they will present the Fellowship's 07-08 budget to the Board. The Board will approve a dollar goal for the canvass. Then the Canvass Committee gears up big time! If you'd like to help, please let me know. Thanks!

Helen Meyers, Board President

Social Action in Action

SOCIAL JUSTICE/COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY: in keeping with the first UU principle, "The inherent worth and dignity of every person" and the second principle, "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations", the Social Action Committee presents this annual series of three lectures to help us learn about social justice issues in our own community and how to become involved with them. They will be presented **during the regular Sunday services on January 21, February 25, and March 18**. A donation of \$50 will be made from the Social Action Committee budget to the agencies represented by the speakers.

The focus this year is on helping women to help themselves. The first lecture on January 21 will feature Kathy Ezawak, Director of the Every Woman's House shelter and a client who has used its services. On February 25 the speaker will be Heather Fitz Gibbon, Professor in the Sociology and Anthropology Department of the College of Wooster who has been involved with the Even Start/Families Learning Together Program in Wooster. Sister Mary Eileen Boyle, Executive Director of Esperanza Threads, a Bedford, Ohio cooperative employing low-income individuals for manufacturing organic cotton clothing will speak on March 18 about fair wages and outreach to the unemployed and under-employed. She will also have organic cotton clothing items available for sale.

SOCIAL ACTION MID-YEAR MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Fellowship. Any one interested in learning about the activities of the committee or who has a project to suggest to the committee is welcome to attend. If you want a place on the agenda, contact either of the co-chairs: Betty Schuler or Helen Ostermiller.

OUR FAMILY LABELS: If you shop at Buehler's and purchase any of the Our Family house brand items, start saving the labels. It hasn't yet been determined whether the entire label or only the UPC (that little patch of parallel black lines) is needed, so save the entire labels until we know. Labels can be put in the basket on the Connections Table in the lobby. They will be donated to Every Woman's House and the Viola Startzman Free Clinic who will exchange them for money. For more information contact Sue Gross, members of the Baker's Dozen Chalice Circle or Lynn Drumm.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE PROGRAM will conclude on Sunday, January 7 with our donations being collected at the Sunday Service. The GUEST Program supports the worldwide human rights and justice work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC funding helps one of the U.U.S.C. program partners that our UU Fellowship "Biloxi Bunch" volunteers have worked with recently in the reconstruction of Katrina-ravaged Biloxi, Mississippi.

Checks made out to U.U.S.C are preferred. Please complete the information on the bottom of the Guest box or Guest Envelope. Donations of \$75 or more will be matched dollar for dollar by the U.U. Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. Thank you for supporting GUEST AT YOUR TABLE Program sponsored by R.E. and Social Action Committees.

The Minister's Column

So, it's 2007; what's new? The tile in the foyer is a magnificent welcome into our building and community. Thanks to Eric Astrachan of Artfind Tile and the Grosses. The Playground Committee and volunteers have been hard at work on the new playground behind the building. The Facilities Committee is brainstorming about more parking; an Ad Hoc committee of the Board has been collecting information about the way in which we communicate. Two new Adult Religious Education classes are coming in January [*Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* Miller, Carter, Heady] and February [*Rhythms of Life*: Alkire and English].

And the Worship Associates are beginning a new Alternative Service. In response to a few requests for a smaller worship experience, we have planned a monthly afternoon service. Beginning **January 21 at 4:30pm**, we will offer an **Evensong Service**. Following the Barbara Holloway's book of the same title, we are planning an interactive, reflective model, more closely reflecting the service in a small congregation. Regular components will still be there: the Chalice Lighting, the Sharing time, and of course, the Offering! But the focus will be on community...which is why we are planning a potluck after the service. In the beginning, there will be no Religious Education offered during this service, and we will be our own Greeters. Child care will be available upon request. This is NOT an attempt to limit participation at the 10:30 service, it truly is a small-group alternative to the larger community experience on Sunday morning.

It certainly cannot be said that we are not busy. It is my hope that—in this growing community—that we have each found our “niche.” Our covenantal faith draws strength from the diversity and uniqueness of each view. May all of our voices be heard.

DRE Column

Kudos, kudos, kudos to Deleasa Randall-Griffiths for her direction of our Holiday Pageant, “Three Miraculous Births”!!! And to all the wonderful children and adults who took part in the production! And to Gregg Sheffield and Tom Griffiths for music and sound assistance! Also, many thanks to the several people who helped with costuming! It was a very special performance, thanks to all of you.

Our new play area debuted December 17th, and seemed to be a big hit with the kids! The area is being developed for younger children, but older children are welcome to assist the little ones with their activities. Right now the logs are meant for climbing, and there will be more items added in the spring. Parents of younger children are encouraged to be in view of the play area, keeping in mind that it is not fenced. We are indebted to Karen Skubik and her committee for this much-needed addition to our UU facility!

Ingathering of Guest at Your Table boxes will be on January 7th during the service. Please convert your family's cash to a check made out to **UUSC** and put it in the box. That stands for Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Please also **fill in the bottom of the box**. There will be a little ceremony involving the children and adults.

The Social Action Committee is collecting labels from the “Our Family” brand items which are purchased at Buehler's. The money exchanged for labels will be given to the Viola Startzman Free Clinic and Every Woman's House. Our children will be helping with this.

The next CON (Dr. Seuss a con.) will be held January 19th-21st at First Church in Columbus. The website for forms is <http://omdyac.org> Forms for our youth in grades 9-12 should be in my hands by January 7th. We need adult sponsors!

I'll be off to a LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) Retreat in West Virginia on January 12th and 13th. All my best for the New Year! Marge

Woo2Moms

a lesbian (and friends) social group, will be meeting Friday night, **January 5th, 2007.**

Potluck at the UUF at 6:30.

Movies for the kids!

Bring yourselves, your kids, your partners and your friends. Hope to see YOU there! Questions?

Contact Traci Smetzer

Mark Your Calendars for

Tuesday, January 23, 7:00pm.

That evening Lynne Bowman, executive director of Equality Ohio, will speak at our Fellowship. Sponsored by Ohioans For Marriage Equality and our local PFLAG, Lynne is coming from Columbus to talk about "The state of the State of Ohio."

Equality Ohio represents the interests of Ohio's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and is in the process of building coalitions with activists throughout the state. Come and find out what's going on right here in Ohio!

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 28, 2007.

This year we honor the Facilities Committee. Come and enjoy white or wheat pancakes, sausage, and applesauce. Serving begins at 8:30.

We need your help - to volunteer, contact Sue Gross.

A Meal that Heals

Monday, January 29 from 4-9 pm

Enjoy dinner at T.J.'s trio of restaurants and help raise money for the Viola Startzman Free Clinic!

\$25 includes choice of chicken, strip steak or salmon entrée, salad, bread & non-alcoholic beverage. Take out Available.

Seating is limited, purchase your tickets

The Free Clinic, Buehlers (Milltown, Downtown & Orrville), T.J.'s & First Merit Bank (Orrville & Wooster Branches)

Teach-In on the War in Iraq

Monday, January 22nd, 7 PM

Lowry Pit in the Lowry Student Center
The College of Wooster Campus on Beall Avenue
(Between Bowman and Wayne) Wooster, Ohio

For list of the speakers see page 5.

Thank You! Thank You!

Thank You

to all of you who helped to make this year's Alternative Gift Market a success! I am always awed by this congregation's willingness to go the extra mile. From organizing and making displays, directing traffic in and out of the building, setting up and cleaning up, shopping, and everything in between, you were there. And, many outside our Fellowship noticed and commented.

Libby Bruch, chair of the planning committee, wrote, "I was pleased with the spirit of Sunday and the good crowd. Your congregation could not have been more welcoming and helpful in all ways. Please tell them." Although I won't have the tally on donations for the market until next month, we did make \$746 on the lunch (about \$100 more than last year) which has been donated to four local food projects. THANK YOU!

~Mary Wicks

Adult Religious Education

invites you to attend

"MY RHYTHM IS OK;

YOUR RHYTHM IS OK"

with Bill Alkire and Susan English

4 Fridays 7:00-8:30 p.m.

February 16 & 23, March 2 & 9, 2007

at UUFWC

Come explore and better understand the inner and outer rhythms that shape our lives. Our goal is to heighten self-awareness and self-acceptance, stretch by trying new things, and try letting go in a safe place. Consider where you are and where you would like to be--through small-group and hands-on activities such as the following:

- Share personal stories
- Chart our circadian cycles
- Discover your preferred metronome setting
- Try rhythmic activities from different cultures
- Create our own STOMP activity

Reset your personal rhythms.

To sign up, please contact Bill & Susan

Watch for upcoming details on 'The Great American Bake Sale'. We will host this in our fellowship, all proceeds go to end childhood hunger in the US.

Biloxi Bunch 2

We are going back!

We leave **Sunday, February 25, '07**, arrive the 26th. We'll work 4 days, and begin the drive home on Saturday after breakfast. We will rough it - you must take your own sleeping bag. We'll stay at Turkey Creek Camp (where some of us worked!) which costs \$10.00 per night with breakfast and dinner included. We will be home by Sunday evening, March 4, '07. Join us in this important event! Contact Sue Gross for more details.

Want to Make Wooster a City of Peace?: Sign the Petition!

As we enter 2007, residents of Wooster can help make the future a more peaceful one by working to have Wooster designated a "City for Peace." Individuals from a variety of different groups in and around our fair city want to ensure that leaders and citizens alike recognize that war is a serious step with consequences that must always be considered carefully. For that reason, we will be circulating a petition requesting that the City Council designate Wooster a "City for Peace."

To sign the petition, you must be of voting age and meet one of two criteria for residency—live within the city limits of Wooster itself, or be a college student who resides within the city limits because you attend school here. You do **not** have to be a registered voter to sign the petition.

We'll be presenting details at the Fellowship, along with the petitions, beginning this month. For additional information, contact Betsy Sheets or Denise Bostdorff.

“Teach-In on the War in Iraq”

Jan 22, 7 pm at Lowry. Details on page 4

Speakers Followed By a Question and Answer Session and Then a Reception

A list of the topics and speakers: *Bush's "New Way Forward": New Options or Old Delusions?* Professor Eric Moskowitz ; *The Multi-party Civil War in Iraq* Professor Emeritus John Gates ; *Back to the Future in the President's Rhetoric* Professor Denise Bostdorff ; *When Morality and Political Realism Converge* Professor Charles Kammer ; *Muslims, the War in Iraq, and the "War on Terror"* Professor Boubacar N'Diaye

A Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Event Sponsored by Wooster Opposing the War, Peace by Peace, the Office of Interfaith Campus Ministries, and the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs. This event is free and open to the public.

Every Month

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets 3rd Sunday during the school year at 7 pm

January 21: Chapter 1-6 of Doubt

by Jennifer Michael Hecht

February 18: Chapter 7-10 of Doubt

March 18: Memory Keeper's Daughter

by Kim Edwards

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

Meets 3rd Saturday from 2-4 pm in the teen room.

OHIOANS FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

We are working for the civil right of marriage for same-sex couples in Ohio.

Meets 4th Tuesday from 7 to 8 pm.

WOMEN'S WISDOM CIRCLE

Meets 4th Monday from 6:30-8:30 pm.

We are reading the first four chapters of Inside Islam (Akbar S. Ahmed, Karen Armstrong, et al.)

COVEN OF UFWC

Meets on a monthly basis in members homes, usually on Saturday evenings. New members and guests are welcome.

For Information, contact Tisha Russo

WUUPS

Wayne UU Pagans meets at 7pm at the fellowship on the Sunday closest to the full moon.

Jan 28—Full Moon & Beltane

Feb 25—Full Moon

March 25—Ostara

All are welcome to join our spiritual group.

For information, contact Gail Carter

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

Starts Thursday January 11 from 7-9 pm.

They meet every other Thursday. This is a women's only group. Space is limited, if you haven't signed up, please contact Dia Miller

Other Important Information

January

Birthdays

- 8 Jon Sprunger
- 11 Casey Hoy
- 14 Michael Jaeb
- 16 Lois Grant
- 21 Kay Bowen
- 23 Paul Evans
- 25 Gail Carter
- 27 Jim Wheelis

January

Anniversaries

- 2 Bev Wire & Bruce Carden

Rides for College Students

The fellowship offers a ride service for College of Wooster students who wish to attend Sunday services. Drivers, if you cannot drive on your scheduled date, please arrange your own substitute. Please meet in front of Lowry Center at 10:10 am

- Jan 7 Margo Curl
- Jan 14 Clif & Hazel Bushnell
- Jan 21 Tom & Sue Gross
- Jan 28 Ruth Sewell
- Feb 4 Margo Curl

Coffee Duty



- Jan 7 Tina Crawford
- Jan 14 Skip & Letty Nault
- Jan 21 Laura & Phil Grimm
- Jan 28 Ruth Dykstra
- Feb 4 *available*

Would you like to host coffee hour?

It is easy! All the supplies are in the kitchen, treats are optional.

The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board near the coat room.

Cleaning Volunteers

Thank our cleaning volunteers if you see them.
We really appreciate their time & commitment.

- Jan 8 Margo Curl & Michelle Shaw
- Jan 22 Bill Alkire & Susan English
- Feb 5 Mary Wicks
- Feb 19 Norma Barber

Thank you also to Clif & Hazel Bushnell & Gene Meyers—they clean every week!

A Look At the Year Ahead

- Jan 19-21 Winter YRUU Con-All Ages. Held at 1st Church— Columbus, OH
- Feb 16-19 Winter Institute at Salt Fork State Park. Winter Fun with friends from around the district. Info on the bulletin board & forms in the office. Sign up now!
- March 9-11 YRUU Senior High Social Action Con. Held at 1st Cleveland in Shaker Heights, OH
- April 20-21 Ohio Meadville District Annual Meeting.
- May 6 UUFWC Annual Meeting
- May 18-20 Spring YRUU Con-All Ages. Held at West Shore UU, Rocky River, OH
- June 20-24 UU Association General Assembly—Portland Oregon. The national meeting for all UU Congregations
- July 15-21 Summer Institute at Kenyon College. District-wide fun for everyone!

January 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed New Year's Day 6:45pm Zen Meditation	2	3 7:00pm choir	4 7:00pm Getting to Know You Circle	5 1:00pm Facilities meeting 6:30pm Woo2Moms potluck	6
7 Guest at Your Table Collection Aluminum Cans 10:30am series 12:00pm COA 7:00pm Social Action	8 6:45pm Zen Meditation 7:00pm RE committee	9 7:00pm Membership Committee	10 7:00pm choir	11 7:00pm Cakes for Queen of Heaven	12	13
			~~~~~ Elaine in Chicago~~~~~			
<b>14</b> 10:30am MLK Service 12:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:45pm Zen Meditation 7:00pm Community MLK Service-Woo. HS	<b>16</b> 7:00pm Board Meeting	<b>17</b> newsletter deadline 7:00pm choir 8:00pm Worship Assoc	<b>18</b> 7:00pm PFLAG-Trinity UCC	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 2:00pm Needlework Group
<b>21</b> People2People 9:00am Madrigal Meeting 10:30am Every Women's House 7:00pm Book Discussion	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Wise Women 6:45pm Zen Meditation	<b>23</b> 7:00pm OME	<b>24</b> 7:00pm choir	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Cakes for Queen of Heaven	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
				~~~~~ Elaine in Chicago~~~~~		
28 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 10:30am Sunday Service	29 6:45pm Zen Meditation	30 7:00pm Joint Team Meeting	31 7:00pm choir			

About the UUFWC

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County,
a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Mission Statement: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County welcomes, accepts and supports all individuals seeking personal and spiritual growth in an open community. For our children and adults, we nurture and promote the development of ideas, beliefs and respect for self, others and the earth. We celebrate diversity, honor the individual and collective search for truth and strive for social justice.

How to Find Us: We meet at 10:30 am on Sundays at 3186 Burbank Road., in Wooster. 330-262-9194

Minister: Rev. V. Elaine Strawn, email: minister@uufwc.org

Director of Religious Education: Marge Thomas, e-mail: dre@uufwc.org

Board of Trustees: Helen Meyers, president, Susan English, vice president, John Gross, secretary, Phil Grimm, Carol Morrison, Meghan Gray.

Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor: Anne Wilson, email: fellowship@uufwc.org

Newsletter Deadline: The 17th day of every month!

Website: www.uufwc.org

Yahoo Group Email: Address your email to: uufwc@yahoo.com One email reaches nearly everyone!

Office Hours: Elaine: Wednesday 6 pm– 9 pm, Thursday 9 am-1 pm, Friday 1-5 pm
Marge: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30—4:00 pm
Anne: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10 am—2 pm

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of Wayne County
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*Honoring the individual and collective search
for truth and striving for social justice.*