



The Newsletter for

February 2007

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

UUCW News

## February Service Schedule

**February 4: 10:30 am *The Feast of St. Brigid*** [Rev. V Elaine Strawn]

February brings many celebrations: Black History Month, Valentines' Day, AND the day honoring the second most famous Celt. In the pagan days of Ireland, she was a healer and wise woman. May she bring healing now.

**February 11: 10:30 am *The Wisdom of Love*** [Rev. V. Elaine Strawn]

Jacob Needleman writes of the power to move into deeper consciousness with self, another, a small group. And this power comes from sustained and sustaining love.

**February 18: 10:30 am *The Year of the Pig*** [Rev. V Elaine Strawn]

Today is the first day of the year 4705, the Year of the Boar! It's Chinese New Year. This ancient culture has many bits of wisdom to share with us...complete with the legend of the Buddha calling all the animals.

**After the service: Stay for lunch and help us brainstorm a new mission statement. See the minister's column for details.**

**February 18: 4:30pm *Evensong: An Alternative Service*** [Beverly Wire ]

This is the second of our small, informal Sunday services, followed by a light pot luck dinner. It is interactive, reflective and very, very friendly. Join us!

**February 25: 10:30 am *Even Start, Families Learning Together*** [Heather Fitz Gibbon]

The second in the Social Action Committee's annual lecture series 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.

Due to the problems with mud in the parking area west of the circle, the lot will be closed unless the ground is frozen.

Able members are encouraged to park at the High School, Cannon Drive, or Friedlander's Park and walk in to church.

For ease of traffic flow, we are asking members to only park on the way out of the drive. Come in, go around the circle and park (parallel) on the drive after passing the shed.

Thanks and sorry for the inconvenience.

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## ***From the Board***

**Parking:** The Facilities and Building Committees, represented by Gene Meyers and Tom Gross, brought options to the Board for increased parking. The plan is to install what would be temporary grass (permeable) parking between the lane and the RE wing (thus allowing for any possible future building expansion), then close other parking areas in shifts to rejuvenate the grass, then re-open them as they are determined to be ready. The Board approved \$14,000 for the project, and the Finance Committee will present a funding proposal. Signage will go up limiting parking along the lane to ONE side only, and to alert drivers to foot traffic.

**Policy:** Your UFWC Board is growing into a 'policy board' – this enables the Board to focus on the larger issues, depending upon a leadership team (we call them the 'X-Team') to perform the day-to-day operations of the Fellowship. The X-Team is a mix of staff and volunteers, and ours consists of the minister, the administrator, and the Facilities Committee co-chairs. In the future, the X-Team may also include a non-board member from the Finance Committee. The X-Team currently meets every two weeks. Committee representatives will learn more about this new way of thinking and operating during the January 30<sup>th</sup> team meeting, 7 p.m., in the Fellowship.

**Stewardship:** The annual budget has been set at \$145,000 for 2007-08 (our fiscal/fellowship year is July 1-June 30). This is a 20% increase over the current pledges total. The committee, consisting of yours truly, Skip Nault, Beth Borham, Lois Grant (from the R.E. Committee), and creative consultant Michael Jaeb will kick into gear very soon, hoping to complete the general fund drive by the end of March.

Helen Meyers, Board President

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## ***Social Action in Action***

**WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ALUMINUM CANS?** On the first Sunday of each month Joe Kufchak collects aluminum cans to recycle. He uses the money he receives for them for the Qwest For Peace "Clean Your Desk Campaign" which provides school supplies rural schools in Nicaragua. Even though the public school system in Nicaragua requires only \$35 per student per year to cover books, supplies and a uniform, the annual per capital income of most Nicaraguans is only about \$370. Even for families with just one child, \$35 is a financial burden. The school supplies purchased with money from recycled aluminum cans help ease this burden. Please remember to bring your cans each month.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE/COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY:** the second in the Social Action Committee's annual lecture series will be held on February 25 (see pg 1). 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. The agency represented by each speaker will be given a donation of \$100, \$75 from the Social Action Committee budget and \$25 from the Worship Committee budget.

**CITY FOR PEACE PETITIONS:** the Social Action Committee has agreed to be one of the sponsors of this petition drive which aims to have the Mayor of Wooster and/or the Wooster City Council declare the City of Wooster a "City for Peace". Petitions are available at the Connections table in the lobby. If you are a resident of Wooster, you can sign one there or if you know residents of Wooster, take one to circulate. The goal is to obtain one thousand signatures to get the attention of the city officials to act on this issue. For more information talk to the person at the Connections Table or contact Denise Bostdorff or Betsy Sheets.

**OUR FAMILY LABELS:** put your Our Family labels (Buehler's house brand) in the basket on the Connections Table in the lobby. Every Woman's House and the Viola Startzman Free Clinic will receive \$25 for each bundle of 500.

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET A SUCCESS!** The AGM raised \$11,365 – money that will give a hand up to many in need throughout the world. Lunch sales raised \$735 for local food programs. Thank you again to all who worked to make this important program a success!

**DAY OF CHANGE:** We can make a difference in our community by supporting the free meal program "Friendship Meals" in Orrville. This program provides a free, nutritious meal each Thursday evening to all who come to the New Hope Christian Center on Walnut Street. Friendship Meals is supported by many local churches, the United Way and the fundraising effort called "Day of Change." On March 11, 2007, the Sunday we change our clocks to Daylight Savings Time, the Social Action Committee will ask for pocket change (and paper money if you can manage it) in support of Friendship Meals. Please start gathering your coins together!

## ***The Minister's Column***

Mission statements are everywhere these days: businesses and schools, non-profits and churches. Life Coaches even help their clients write their own personal mission statements. So, why are they so important? I finally got it at General Assembly in St. Louis last June. I finally got the importance of one little paragraph on a sheet of white paper. It must have been the twelve conversations about mission-driven budgets. Mission Statements tell us (and others) who we are: we use them to set out our goals, to do our public relations and to select social action projects. They are the reason we pledge...they are the cause.

In 1997-our first year in the OLD building, we wrote a Mission Statement. It's the one which still appears on our bulletin folder. But it is long, hard to remember, and we are a community in a new space and with many, many new folks since 1997. So, it's time to re-examine our mission. The most important part is that it reflect the thinking of as many of us as possible. **We will gather for lunch on February 18 [You don't even have to bring food!]** As we eat and sit around smaller tables, a board member or staff member will help with a guided discussion, "How do YOU see us? What are we REALLY doing here?" Notes from these conversations will hang in the meeting room until mid-March; you can just read them, comment on them, question them. After March 11, staff will collate them into draft Mission Statements which we will use for practice during the services in April. Finally, we will vote on a Mission Statement at our Annual Meeting in May.

I think it can be a fun process. Please join us on the journey. Your specific voice is important.

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## ***DRE Column***

We are grateful for the fine response to our Guest at Your Table program, with this year's donations exceeding last year's.

I had a grand time at our first-ever LREDA retreat in West Virginia. It was most spiritually uplifting as well as educational, with warm collegial friendship.

PARENTS—we still are having a problem with children running in and out of the cars in the parking lot and in the circle. We are asking that all children report to their parents after R.E., and then with parental permission—go to the Special Place or the playground or outside on the sidewalk or grass, taking care not to run over pedestrians. There should be no running inside the R.E. wing. Access to the outside will be from the vestibule only.

Please help us achieve these prudent and courteous outcomes. Thank you!

On February 11<sup>th</sup> the children will be frosting cookies for coffee hour as a social action project. They will also be making Valentines. In preparation for the 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special baking day on February 10<sup>th</sup> for children and parents. (See special notice on Great American Bake Sale on page 4)

Many of you will remember attending a "Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth" conversation last spring here in our church. That was part of a two-year study being done by the UUA. The next step is that each district will hold such a conversation. The one for our district will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully we will send many carpools from UUFWC. (See 'around the district' on page 4)

There will be a "R.E. Parent Work Party" on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 to noon. Come and fellowship with other parents as you deep-clean the R.E. wing! We'll even have beverages for you. Please get it on your calendar now.

I will miss the entire baking weekend, for I'll be attending a Renaissance Module. This time the subject is "Unitarian Universalist Identity."

Happy Valentine's Day!

## ***This Month***

You are invited to the 9th annual

### **Ground hog Day Party**

**February 2** from 6-10 pm at the fellowship  
Costumes from the movie "Groundhog Day" or something to do with groundhogs or spring are encouraged.

Prizes for the best costume!

Please bring food to share, table service & a non-perishable donation for People to People.

### **Great American Bake Sale**

UUFWC will be holding a Great American Bake Sale on **Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the service. The Great American Bake Sale is a national campaign to end childhood hunger in America. Funds raised help to support after school and summer meal programs for children in poverty and help to provide nutrition education programs for families at risk.

Please help us contribute to this important project!

*Two kinds of donations are needed.*

*If you like to bake:* We need baked goods—both small items for the bake sale & larger items for a silent auction (cakes, pies, bread, etc.)

*If you don't like to bake:* please donate ingredients by **Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**. We need: M&Ms, chocolate chips, Chex cereal, raisins, large rod pretzels, small pretzels & cocktail peanuts—see sign up sheet in lobby.

Donations of baked goods can be dropped off on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 12:00. The RE children will be helping to package and prepare items, so early delivery will be appreciated. Thank you for your help! For more information see:

Sue Gross, Scott Crawford, and Kelly Chandler

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### **Children and parents:**

Come bake Valentine cookies and help prepare for the bake sale on Saturday, February 10th.

Come and go between 10:00 and 1:00.

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### **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 at Turkey Creek

Camp - you must take your own sleeping bag. The cost is \$10.00 per night with breakfast and dinner included. We will be home by Sunday evening, March 4, '07. Contact Sue Gross for more details. **We really need at least one more person to make the long trip!** Please consider helping the Mississippi folks!

## ***Next Month***

### **R.E. Parent Work Party!**

**Saturday, March 3rd** from 9:00 to noon  
Come and fellowship while deep-cleaning classrooms!

### **Sustainable Energy fest**

Saturday, **March 3, 2007**

9am -5pm at the Wilderness Center

See flyer on the bulletin board for more details

Or [www.wildernesscenter.org](http://www.wildernesscenter.org)

### **Adult Religious Education**

invites you to attend

"MY RHYTHM IS OK;  
YOUR RHYTHM IS OK"

with Bill Alkire and Susan English

**4 Fridays in March at 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Starting March 2 thru 24, 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

To sign up, please contact Bill & Susan

### ***Madrigal Planning***

Lords, Ladies, the time is naught to near

To think upon the Madrigal & kindly volunteer  
The following committees are in great need of help:

Dinner, sets, Publicity & Costumes

So if you wish to join us and help to spread the cheer  
We welcome you participate & plan a banner year.

~Sharon Delgadillo

### ***Around the District***

OMD conversation on

"Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth"

**Saturday, February 24th** from 10:00 to 2:00

First UU Church of Columbus

All are encouraged to attend, especially our Youth, Youth Group Advisors, Board members and parents.

## A Word About Nametags

**Please wear your nametag.** There are so many new people, and we don't all know each other's names.

**Did you know your nametag has a home?** If you look on the back, the number corresponds to numbered slot on the rack. If you don't know your number, look in the green booklet on the ledge.

**If you need a nametag, either new or a replacement, please add your name to the sign up sheet near the coat room.**

## Please be careful in the parking lot

Members are encouraged to be watchful of foot traffic when entering and leaving the church drive and parking areas. Signage will be posted to exert caution for foot traffic, speed limit, and R.E. classes will discuss this in their classes.

## New Faces at the UUF

Dave Cullis and Pat Rogers, coming from a Methodist background, moved here from Pittsburgh four years ago. Pat and Dave are both attorneys, with Dave associated with the UAW in Mansfield and Pat working with Lon Vinon in Wooster. When asked if they had any pets, the response was, "Yes, cats!" When asked how many, they declined to give an exact number...

Let's just say they're wild about cats!

Both Pat and Dave love to travel and like Mexican food, bicycling and gardening. Their biggest hobby is sailing and they spend a great deal of time at Lake Erie during the summers. Pat said that during the summers they tend to 'disappear' because they spend so much time on the lake. Dave is actively involved with the Community Band and recently played in the concert at the UUF with the Orrville City Band.

Everyone say "Hello" to David & Tammy Paul! Tammy works for D&S Distribution here in Wooster and is married to David Paul. David is a lineman with Orrville Electric. Tammy's spiritual journey started with the Evangelical Church (her grandfather was an Evangelical minister). During college she left the church and started seeking her own path. She says that she felt extremely comfortable coming to the UUF and has since decided that this is where she needs to be. Both she and David agree that the diversity and lack of judgment at the UUF are major factors in their continued attendance. They are happy to have found a community. They have four cats and one dog.

## Every Month

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets 3rd Sunday during the school year at 7 pm

February 18: Chapter 7-10 of Doubt by Jennifer Michael Hecht

March 18: Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards

### CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Thursdays, February 8 & 22 from 7-9 pm.

They meet every other Thursday.

### CHALICE CIRCLES

~*Healing The Whole Person Circle*: Hosting the Groundhog Day Party, February 2

~*Baker's Dozen Chalice Circle* will cook at Every Women's House on Wednesday, February 14.

~*Getting to Know You Circle*: First Thursday of every month at 7 pm in the Library.

### COVEN OF UUFWC

Meets on a monthly basis in members homes, usually on Saturday evenings. For Information, contact Tisha Russo

### 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 Inside Islam (Akbar S. Ahmed, Karen Armstrong, et al.)

### WOO 2 MOMS

on the first Friday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Contact Traci Smetzer

### WUUPS

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

Feb 25—Full Moon / March 25—Ostara

For information, contact Gail Carter

## ***Other Important Information***

### **February**

#### **Birthdays**

- 8 Elaine Strawn
- 10 Peg Redinbaugh
- 11 Don Curie
- 12 Lee Simpson
- 26 Norma Barber
- 26 Emily Curie
- 26 Marge Thomas
- 27 Candy Lint

#### **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

- Feb 4 Margo Curl
- 11 Clif & Hazel Bushnell
- 18 Tom & Sue Gross
- 25 Ruth Sewell
- Mar 4 Margo Curl

#### **Coffee Duty**



- Feb 4 Jason Stillwagner
- 11 Lois Grant & Rich Pratt
- 18 Ruth Dykstra
- 25 Cris Sullens & June Norris
- March 4 *available*
- 11 David & Tammy Paul

#### ***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.**

- Feb 5 Mary Wicks
- Feb 19 Norma Barber
- Mar 5 Peg Redinbaugh & John Gross
- Mar 19 Beth & Tim Borham

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

### ***A Look At the Year Ahead***

- 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 at West Shore UU in Rocky River, OH.
- May 6 UUFWC Annual Meeting. After the service, members are encouraged to stay to vote on the business of the fellowship.
- 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 summer fun for everyone!

## February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Office Hours:</b> Elaine: Wednesday 6 pm– 9 pm, Thursday 9 am-1 pm, Friday 2-5 pm Marge: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30—4:00 pm Anne: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10 am—12:30 pm						
<b>4</b> Aluminum Cans 10:30am Feast of St. Brigid-Strawn 12:00pm COA	<b>5</b> 6:45pm Zen Meditation	<b>6</b> 6:15pm Membership Committee 6:30pm AAUW rental	<b>7</b> 7:00pm choir	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Cakes for Queen of Heaven	<b>9</b> 9:00am Bake Goods Drop Off 10:00am RE kid's bake cookies	<b>10</b> 12:30pm x team 6:00pm Ground Hog Day party 6:30pm Wvo2Moms potluck
<b>11</b> 10:30am service 12:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:45pm Zen Meditation 7:00pm RE committee	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Board Meeting	<b>14</b> 5:00pm Baker's Dozen Meal 7:00pm choir	<b>15</b> 7:00pm PFLAG-Trinity UCC	<b>16</b> 12:30pm x team	<b>17</b> newsletter deadline 2:00pm Needlework Group
<b>18</b> People2People 10:30am Year of the Pig-Strawn 12:00pm Lunch/Mission Write 4:30pm Evensong-Alternative Service 7:00pm Book Discussion	<b>19</b> 6:45pm Zen Meditation	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm choir	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Cakes for Queen of Heaven	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Biloxi Bunch 2 10:30am Families Learning Together 7:00pm WUUPS	<b>26</b> Biloxi Bunch 2 6:30pm Women Wisdom Circle 6:45pm Zen Meditation	<b>27</b> Biloxi Bunch 2 7:00pm OME	<b>28</b> Biloxi Bunch 2 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 Webmaster: Lee Simpson

**Yahoo Group Email:** Address your email to: uufwc @yahoogroups.com One email reaches nearly everyone! To join, email the office: fellowship @uufwc.org.

**Office Hours:** Elaine: Wednesday 6 pm– 9 pm, Thursday 9 am-1 pm, Friday 2-5 pm  
Marge: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30—4:00 pm  
Anne: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10 am—12:30 pm

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of Wayne County  
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Wooster, Ohio 44691



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