

The Unitarian Universalist Church In Eugene, Oregon



Where Your Liberal Spirit Soars

January 2012

Volume 15
Issue 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|-----|
| <i>Minister's Message</i> | 2 |
| <i>President's Message</i> | 3 |
| <i>Committee News</i> | 4-5 |
| <i>Music</i> | 6 |
| <i>Religious Ed</i> | 7 |
| <i>Potlucks & Happenings</i> | 8-9 |
| <i>Appreciations & Connections</i> | 10 |
| <i>Calendar</i> | 11 |

UUCE Contact Information

Minister

Rev. Alicia Forsey

revforsey@gmail.com

Please call or email to setup an appt.

Director of Religious Ed

Katy Siepert

uucedre@gmail.com

Director of Music

Tom Sears

Phone: (541) 686-5972

tesears@comcast.net

Regular Office Hours:

Tues - Fri

9am - 1:30pm

Closed 12/26 - 12/30

Church Office: (541) 686-2775

office@uueugene.org

assistant@uueugene.org

website: www.uueugene.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

January 1: "Remembering" (11am ONLY)

Worship Leader: Marilyn Junkins, Worship Associate: Robin Schantz-Mulford
A retrospective look back at 2011 and all the changes we've gone through at UUCE: beloved members who've passed away, projects completed, events that took place. We will also have a lengthy opportunity for you to share your Joys, Concerns and Gratitudes for the year past and light candles in remembrance.

January 8: "Coming Home" (10am & 11am)

See page 8 regarding the new Sunday schedule.

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey; Personal Reflection: Marina McIntire
When we think of going "home" what comes to mind? Is it a specific place where we feel we truly belong -- either real or something we have always longed for? Or, is it a place we seek to find within the depths of wisdom contained in our inner selves?

January 15: "Laughter at the Heart of Things" (10am & 11am)

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey

There are many kinds of laughter. Sometimes laughter is simply a better option than getting upset. Sometimes it is a spontaneous response to something that strikes us as funny, or silly, or slapstick. Sometimes it is an aid to recovering from an illness. And then there is the kind of laughter that is pure and free -- the kind that springs from the heart of things.

January 22: "Born This Way" (10am & 11am)

Worship Leader: Katy Siepert, Worship Associate: Anna Sontag

Celebrating the miracle of exactly who we are. Teen group to sing "Born this Way" by Lady Gaga at the 10:00 am service

January 29: "The Ox Herding Pictures" (10am & 11am)

Worship Leader: Rev. Alicia Forsey, Worship Associate: Anna Sontag

The Ox herding Pictures depict stages of life that we pass through, beginning with emptiness and going through life's stages until emptiness is reached again. These are ancient, and though they are traditionally from the Buddhist tradition, the message is universal. What, if anything, has happened over time to make the various stages of life less clearly defined than what we find in these pictures? Each depiction in the original pictures respected every stage of life as what was (at the time) appropriate and expected. Do we have this kind of clarity and respect for each stage of life today?

FROM YOUR MINISTER

This week I went to our new site and stood a while, alone, in the sanctuary. I felt an odd mixture of sadness and appreciation. Also some satisfaction because I have been diligent in attending to the work that I could do to help the congregation make the transition from your current location to what will be a completely different environment. Different, but full of promise.

The sadness is that I will not be with you (aside from possibly a few weeks late in this church year) in your new church, your stunningly amazing accomplishment which is a testament to your passion and commitment to The Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene and to the Unitarian Universalist movement. I will not be with you because I am not going to be in Eugene as you enter your third year of Interim Ministry. The decision I made about this was very difficult, and mostly based on personal matters. I do think my decision is best for UUCE, too. You may or may not agree with me on this now, but hopefully you will find that having a different perspective and a new voice is a good thing.

My appreciation for you is immense. I look forward to reading about how this congregation blossoms into your fullest potential. During the remainder of this church year, I will continue to do all that I can to help you prepare for your future.

With love and all good wishes, Rev. Alicia McNary Forsey



Our new church home is shaping up fast toward the April 15, 2012 goal of completion. As of mid-December, we have \$1,824,308 in pledges and gifts. In addition, our church members and friends have donated thousands of volunteer hours. We are a fabulously generous UU community!

We still need another \$186,000 to fund this last phase of the renovation. Hopefully the new tax year will bring new or additional stretch gifts to help us complete this legacy project. To quote a homemade placard at the work site - You Betcha We Can Do It!

To give a gift, you can bring or mail a check to the church office, or donate cash, stocks, mutual funds, IRA distributions... The possibilities are endless! If you have questions or new/additional pledge information, please contact Karen Gaffney, capital campaign treasurer, at 541-344-2073 or karengaffney@comcast.net or Kay Crider, capital campaign chair, at 541-685-1437 or kaycrider@me.com. Thank you!

Can We Join Together To Save The UUCE Endowment Fund And Support the Capital Campaign?

The UUCE Board of Trustees has voted to call a special Congregational Meeting on January 15 to ask the Congregation to vote to expend much of The Endowment Fund Principal on the Capital Campaign Account to help us get in to our new facility. Please attend this meeting as this vote is important for both the Endowment Fund and the Capital Campaign. For information regarding what The UUCE Endowment Fund is please visit: www.uueugene.org/endowment-fund

It is rare to expend the Principal of almost any Endowment Fund because typically "The Principal is to remain intact in perpetuity." Clearly, the Board did not make this decision lightly and there must be a need for more funds to get into our new building. If you have questions about the amount of funds required to enable our move, please contact the Capital Campaign. Also at the Congregational Meeting on January 15th, the amounts needed should be outlined prior to any vote. There is approximately \$100,000 in the Endowment Fund, depending on the ups and downs of the Stock Market. Most of these assets are invested in a Pooled Endowment Fund that is professionally managed by The Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF). Just today we have heard from at least three people that they would donate more to the Capital Campaign in order to save The Endowment Fund, which has been nurtured and grown for so many years.

If our Congregation votes to expend The Endowment Fund now, we need to be mindful how very difficult it may be to get a new Endowment Fund started. People give to Endowment Funds with a sense of trust that their money will be invested for future generations and ongoing good works, keeping the Principal intact. Building this trust and a new Endowment Fund will be a lengthy process. Please talk to your friends encouraging them to contribute additional funds to help Save Our UUCE Endowment Fund AND Support the Capital Campaign. For information about how to contribute: www.uueugene.org/donate/95-welcome-to-capital-campaign

UUCE Endowment Fund Trustees: Ruth Nelson, Monica Frank, Marta Powers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The start of a new calendar year is often the occasion for assessment of progress and examination of priorities. With respect to our church, there are several important areas that will require attention during the remainder of this church year.

The first of these is the long-anticipated move in to our new church home. Our congregation continues to demonstrate amazing generosity through gifts of time, skill and dollars. We have raised several hundreds of thousands of dollars more than was projected by our professional capital campaign consultant. But as you know from the letter you received from the Capital Campaign Committee, we are still in need of more funds in order to complete the remodeling and get our occupancy permit. Therefore, the Board unanimously endorsed a proposal to call a special congregational meeting, to be held on 15 January following the 2nd service. We will be asking the congregation to approve the transfer of much of our endowment fund to the capital account in order to help bridge the gap between what has been raised or pledged and what is needed to obtain the occupancy permit.

Such a step is not common, but neither is it unprecedented. And the Board believes that the consequences of a delayed move are sufficiently serious that the use of the endowment for this purpose is necessary and fully justified. Our inability to make this move in the spring will put us in an untenable position from many points of view. Consider the many volunteers, some of whom will have been working essentially full time for over 2 years on this project by this spring. Also consider the disruption to our church life that will occur if we have to move twice, once to an unknown location, and the second time to our new home. Finally, consider the financial consequences of a delayed move on our ability to get settled in to the building and begin earning much needed rental income that will be essential when we start paying the mortgage from our general fund in 2013.

Another important area of focus this year is ministerial search. At a recent Board meeting, Rev. Alicia informed us that after much thought and reflection, she has decided not to ask for an extension of her contract to serve a 3rd year with us. The Board respects this decision and appreciates that Rev Alicia informed us of her decision with enough lead time to allow us to form a search committee and for that committee to do its job in a thoughtful, unhurried manner.

Unlike the search committee for a settled Minister, the interim search committee is selected by the Board and should consist of both Board members and nonboard members. It will be formed after the first of the year, and its work will end with the hiring of a new interim Minister in the spring.

In addition to these areas of focus, the Board continues its work on longer term goals of governance change and greater emphasis on right relations in our church culture. Jason Dedrick is leading the task force on bylaw changes, and we anticipate that there will be a congregational meeting in February to deal with the first "easy" ones. The Board is aware that the ongoing building project and the move will continue to be the primary focus for the congregation. We understand that people have only so much energy, time and other resources to give. Nonetheless, it is vital that we continue to make progress in areas of church life that are not related to the building project and also that our upcoming annual fund drive is successful.

Rev Alicia has stated on many occasions that she sees a bright future for us. The generosity of so many members and friends, the caring that is demonstrated when we reach out to help those in our community and beyond who are in need, and the thousands of hours of volunteer work given in service to the church all justify this faith. Let us move in to the New Year with renewed resolution to continue the work in the spirit of our newly adopted Covenant of Right Relations.

Mary Otten, Board President

ELECTIONS ARE COMING!!!

While the Board has been working hard to improve our governance system, the Nominating committee has been reshaping our election process in order to better serve our growing congregation. Start thinking now about who you will recommend to the Nominating Committee for open elected leadership positions, to be voted on by the congregation later in the spring. To stimulate your thoughts we will post updated job descriptions on the website for all the open positions. Check them out. Give them some thought. Help us find just the right individuals to lead us forward during this exciting period in the history of this church. Contact any of the following members of the Nominating Committee with your suggestions:

Betty Hosokawa, Chair

Sally DeCou

Nisco Junkins

Sonya Margerum

Leora White

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATE

This month's meeting was a joint effort with Occupy Eugene to present a movie "What would Jesus Buy". We were pleased to have many people from outside the congregation attend. Brett Diamond of Occupy led a good discussion with most of the audience participating, after the movie.

On Dec. 17th we participated in a Social Justice interfaith discussion at the Methodist Church which will continue to explore issues that Occupy is addressing.

Many of our group are involved with the Egan warming centers which anticipate being very active this cold winter. Our focus continues to be primarily on feeding the hungry, and the issues of homelessness. We are also working to identify the type of fundamental problems that we might be able to impact.

Our meetings are at 7 pm in the Social Hall at 40th and Donald. We meet the first Monday in the month, Jan. 2, 2012! We invite all to join us in finding ways to make a difference...with love.

Sue Craig, Chair

FFLC Volunteer Night

Thursday, January 26th 6:30 pm
770 Bailey Hill Road

No one should have to experience hunger. You can help by volunteering for an evening at Food for Lane County. Our group repackages donated food for distribution to the hungry all over Lane County. Just wear a hat or ponytail, bring a jacket, and wear closed toe shoes. Volunteers are needed every weekday evening, so you don't have to wait for the official UUCE night.

Contact Diane Wooldridge
at woolietoys@msn.com or
342-8071 to sign up.



Race to Finish the BUUB Begins

Get ready, get set, go! The race is on. Beginning in January we have only three and a half months—that's 105 days!—left to finish our new building at 13th and Chambers. If we make our target deadline of April 15 (give or take a week or so) that should give us enough time to get our occupancy permit from the city and also allow two weeks to move from the old building to the new. So, the need for volunteer workers is greater than ever before. Here's the beginning line-up:

- Continue baseboard installation
- Caulk under baseboard and put up plastic barriers along the bottom of all walls to prevent the floor grinder from splashing slurry.
- Grind the concrete floor. We'll need a scheduled line-up of folks to operate grinder once it arrives in mid-January.
- Cut tiles in preparation for tiling all bathrooms
- Sand door jambs
- Install final insulation and sheet rock
- Install trim
- Sort and move tools and materials daily
- Clean up daily, including the parking lot, for which we purchased the stiffest push brooms available.
- Food, food, & more food to sustain the workers.

For comments, questions or suggestions contact Judy Sawyer at jsawyer712@comcast.net or 541-302-0944 or Judie Hansen at judie310hansen@comcast.net or 541-335-1637.

Would you like more COMMUNICATION & TRANSPARENCY?

The Board of Trustees want to keep you informed.

This is a reminder on the various ways to be so:

- * Monthly Newsletter - received by e-mail or mail
- * Monthly Board Minutes - sent monthly to UU-Biz; posted monthly on UUCE website.
- * Attend monthly Board meetings - normally the 2nd Thursday of each month; 7 PM; SH
- * Read the E-Bulletins and/or UUCE-News
- * Attend Coordinating Council - normally the 2nd Saturday monthly: 9:30 AM; Sanctuary
- Norma Landy, Board Secretary

NOTES FROM THE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Seventeen people attended the Coordinating Council meeting on December 10, 2011. After Maren Peterson-DeGroff shared opening words, Board Vice President and Council chair, Susan Verner, read the church's recently adopted mission statement. She recommended that the statement be read at the beginning of committee meetings. Susan also read the recently-created Covenant of Right Relations. Susan then gave a Board report.

Maren Peterson-DeGroff and Ken Ross reported on the changes in the management of our website. In early November, Ishbel Lane (Ishi) met with her supervisor, Kim Harris, and Rev. Alicia Forsey. At this meeting, Ishi asked to be relieved of responsibility of the website, because of her workload and limited hours. Since then, the web team has been very busy working on and improving the website, especially Todd Woodward (who is the leader of the web team), Glen Treiber, and Maren. See related article on p9.

There was a follow-up discussion on the effectiveness of committees. The Board is looking at the big issue of church governance, one in which the Board ceases to micro-manage. The Board wants to focus on overseeing resources, setting policy, and receiving accountability. For committees, the over-riding question will be: "What have you done as a committee to further the mission of the church?" Other questions will involve committees' charges, objectives, commitment requirements of members, terms of service, and how the chair and members are chosen. It was noted that mentoring is critical for new chairs of committees, new Board members, and so on.

It is almost time to be thinking of budgets for the church's 2012-2013 fiscal year. While budget constraints may again lead to many budgets with \$00, the submission of the committee's work and needs, including money, will help the process until we are able to fund committees properly.

As always, there were committee reports where we learn about the many diverse activities in the church. And, as always, our meetings are open, and we welcome visitors. The next meeting is on Saturday morning, January 14.

SIGN UP TO Be A CHALICE LIGHTER



The second Chalice Lighter call of this church year will be in your mailbox or Inbox in early January. This is a very important call because it will benefit putting the finishing touches on **our new church home at 13th and Chambers.** This was made possible by the outstanding generosity of our members who have signed up to be Chalice Lighters. We still need a few more to reach 50%. The following information was sent to all 59 congregations in the Pacific Northwest District explaining why we applied for the grant: "Eugene's growth to a program level congregation has been stymied by the lovely church in the woods in the south hills that it has occupied for 50 years. That church has been sold and the congregation purchased a former fraternal lodge in a densely populated area on the edge of downtown. The site is accessible by auto, city bus, and bicycle. They now have the space and location for sustained growth. The worship area, while providing over twice the space of the old church, is flat. In order for the choir and presenters to be seen by all, they need to be on a raised platform and risers. The cost of that necessary feature is substantial, and the cost of a mobile lift to make the platform accessible for presenters or choir members with limited mobility is also substantial.

The total cost to the congregation will be \$38,702, amounting to barely 1% of the total project cost, but representing 1/8 of the amount needed to complete the renovation and remodeling. The congregation has invested over \$2.5 million of its money and volunteer labor and has a substantial mortgage to repay over the coming years. A Chalice Lighter grant of \$38,702 would be a record setter, but it is not unattainable. **If each and every PNWD Chalice Lighter responds to this call with a donation of just \$17, Eugene would get their needs met.** Eugene has almost one half of their congregation enrolled as Chalice Lighters and has pledged to not only reach 50%, but maintain that level of involvement to be able to help other congregations on future calls. **So watch for your letter or email and respond generously.** Donations must be received by March 5, 2012 to go towards this call.

Moving Day Preparation - Weed It Out!

You've recovered from New Year's Eve and the Christmas decorations have been put away. It is the time to start thinking about our move later this spring to our new home. Last fall various groups were asked to inventory their accumulation of stored stuff, located at the church and at individual homes. **Now is the time to take a look at all that stuff with a critical eye, discarding or recycling things that, as the BUUB vision turns into solid reality, you are clearer that you will no longer need.** We have grown as a church. We used to take the position, if in doubt, save it because we might need it someday. Now we are asking you to view that stuff with the motto "when in doubt, throw it out." (Or recycle it.) If there is something you feel is archives worthy, check with that committee. We have built in some storage space for all committees within the new building, but that space also must serve us well into the future. We can not afford to fill it to the brim on moving day, with no space left over for future dreams. Join us in cleaning house. It is so exciting to finally be getting ready for our big move!

OUR BAZAAR

This year's Bazaar was enhanced by the help of four people who stepped up to serve UUCE. Marquerite Crew was tremendous on publicity, Jane Souzon did the leg work in getting signs ready, and arranging for their placement and then in picking them up. Khris Stewert was a delight in helping with many facets of this effort, mainly in the setting up of the tables and general layout. Rouanna Garden was helpful in every area, with her great enthusiasm.

And then there were the other approximately 120 of you who sewed, painted, did weaving and glass work, made drums and fantastic jewelry, superb water colors, puzzles and all kinds of "Made in Oregon" hand crafts which were knit, felted, and otherwise created from lovely media. We were treated to beautiful donated high end apparel, on top of fantastic soups and chilis, great baked goodies as well as jelly and jam ..organic and delicious! There were those who painted and distributed signs, procured sales tags for us, cashiered, served and otherwise set up and took down. All of this while being treated to beautiful music....and at the end, by a lovely choir!

And then we have those of you who bought items. \$3,612.02 thanks to YOU! If there are those who doubt that we are a generous congregation, do come talk to me!

Many, many thanks.
Sue Craig, Chair



Choirs Welcome New Singers in January

If you would like to sing in one of our fine choirs, January is welcome-new-singers month. Please contact me, Tom Sears, with your interest and I will be sure to have music ready for you. Then, join us for a rehearsal in the

Sanctuary. Rehearsals begin in January, as follows:

Sanctuary Choir Wed, Jan 4, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Chalice Choir Mon, Jan 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

The Sanctuary Choir is our large mixed choir singing two Sundays each month. I especially want to encourage basses to participate. The women's **Chalice Choir** is a spirited group of 30 singers who sing one Sunday each month. No audition is required to participate in either the Sanctuary or Chalice choirs, though you must be able to carry a tune. The **Chamber Singers** is our 16-voice a cappella mixed choir. It is currently full, but if you are interested in auditioning for future openings, please let me know. If you would like more information about our Music Program please contact:

Tom Sears, 686-5972, tesears@comcast.net

General info: www.uueugene.org/Music/Choir.html

2012-13 Annual Fund Campaign

Just as surely as Christmas was followed by New Years Eve, the new year means UUCE's Annual Fund Campaign is fast approaching. UUCE's campaign will gear up within the next few weeks. Some years we have relied on letters, other years we have done personal canvassing. This year we decided, what the heck! Let's do all of them. So, we are randomly dividing our membership into three groups. One group will receive personal visits from canvassers, a second group will be invited to participate in small group gatherings, and the third group will get a letter detailing information about the campaign. Over the next two years we will rotate the groups, so in time, everyone will be contacted by mail, in a group, and individually. If you would prefer a personal visit, please let us know by contacting the church office.

Our intention is to explore what we value about UUCE, to share what our hopes and dreams are for UUCE, and examine what our church community provides for our spiritual journey. This is a shared experience. The church community provides inspiration, assistance and guidance, while each of us contributes to the journey of others. Together we create this nurturing environment.

Our annual fund campaign will culminate on April 15th with Celebration Sunday, to be held at our new building at 13th and Chambers. Our celebration will be followed by an opportunity to add some finishing touches to the building as we prepare for occupancy.

Over the next few weeks you will be contacted about your participation in our stewardship effort. Please give some thought to where you feel we should be going, and what you can contribute to taking us there.

Elliot McIntire Chair, Annual Fund Campaign

Adult Religious Education Forums to Resume in January

The Adult Religious Education Committee is happy to announce that we will be resuming the Sunday morning Adult RE forums/discussion groups in the new year. Our October experiment with these groups was very well received and we look forward to some more stimulating discussions. They will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 on Sunday mornings downstairs in room 6, beginning Jan 8, 2012.

This format is intended to appeal to those who gain sustenance from rich conversation about thought-provoking topics, and to build understanding and relationships by sharing their ideas and learning from others. Participants are invited to simply show up and attend any sessions they wish. We hope you will attend one.

Jan. 8: **The Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism.** www.uufsm.org/uu/content/six-sources-0 Do you draw on any of them, all of them, or something different for inspiration and guidance?
Barb Prentice, Facilitator

Jan. 15: **Humor** - when is it fun, when is it hurtful. Jane Wagner, Facilitator

Jan. 22: **Pilgrimages:** What is a pilgrimage and who is a pilgrim? Are all pilgrimages religious or spiritual in nature? Does a pilgrim have to be religious or spiritual? Have you ever been on a pilgrimage or do you want to go on one? Olga Turner, Facilitator

Jan. 29: **Optimism / Pessimism:** Is your glass half full or half empty? Lyn Fischrup, Facilitator

Dear UUCE Families and Friends,

Can it really already be the New Year? The time truly has flown. And in the short time I've been with the RE program at UUCE, I've learned some things I think are worth sharing. So, without further ado, the RE Top Ten:

10. Learn to use your day planner efficiently. It is worth the time it takes to re-write entries into the larger day-by-day squares provided. Your time is precious, and you will be asked to be in at least three different places at once, so time management is of the essence! And calendar everything, even recurring events.

9. Time in the RE classrooms (maybe even outside them) is warped and bent – a full hour can feel like only five minutes. So as the children are leaving to go to the playground, or being picked up by parents, look back at the time and the things you didn't get to and laugh, knowing that it's just a time warp and there's nothing you can do about that!

8. Create art with great, quality, interesting materials – hand and eye appeal means high quality products our kids can be proud of.

7. Don't re-invent the wheel. There are lots of resources available out there – it's about finding them early and tweaking what already exists.

6. Get plenty of rest, eat healthful foods, get lots of exercise, and drink water. It serves no one to run yourself into the ground, even if you're having fun while doing it. Long-term commitment means having long-term health.

5. Take care of personal matters – pay bills on time, return those overdue library books, take the dog, kid, self in for regular check-ups. Even if it's inconvenient.

4. Communication is key. And knowing who to communicate with is even more key.

3. There is never a slow time in the world of RE. The next big project is just around the corner. So even if you don't know what's next up, waiting for you, anticipate that it is!

2. Always accept help when it is offered, even when you don't know what you will need the help for. There is always, ALWAYS, something else to be done. (See #3.)

And the number one lesson is...

1. Celebrate! Often! Revel in the successes, learn from the failures, and be sure to celebrate them all!

I'm sure there will be more learning as time goes by – that is practically guaranteed in this life. And as I look back over this list, I realize that what I've really created is a wonderful list of New Year's resolutions. So, I resolve to take these lessons into the New Year here at UUCE and apply them wherever possible! The coming year is shaping up to be filled with many new lessons for all of us. So, if you look over this list, and see some things you'd like to adopt as your own, go ahead and take 'em – they're free!

Happy New Year,
Katy

NEW SCHEDULE COMING UP FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Starting the second Sunday in January, UUCE will be entering a time of creative experimentation in order to be as fully prepared for our new location as possible. Nothing is set in cement. Everything is changeable.

As it is now, our first service will begin at 10am and will be forty minutes long and more informal than the second service. Everyone is invited to both services. The first will include children over five years old.

Our new Sunday schedule with a more casual, shorter first service at 10am needs your help. If you have ideas about music, or would like to participate in the first service, please contact Tom Sears, tsears@comcast.net or Rev. Forsey revforsey@gmail.com.

Conversation with Rev. Forsey

Jan 10 at 7pm | Sanctuary

While we enjoy something sweet, we will be in conversation about the long history of UUCE. The Board has begun to work on this, but your knowledge and memories will be needed in order to construct a well-informed History Wall. Come and help us piece the past together in a way that will inform members and friends of the church about where UUCE has been and how the past has helped to shape the current identity of the church. Please let Rev. Forsey know that you are coming by calling the church office (541-686-2775) and leaving a message on her line. This will help in preparation for refreshments.

A Congregational Meeting was led by Rev. Forsey on November 27 to discuss a Covenant of Right Relations. The draft presented is one used by the First UU Church in Berkeley, CA. With a few changes, the following was accepted: *"We covenant to build a religious community guided by respect and sustained by our principles. We will listen appreciatively, speak with care, express gratitude, honor our differences and assume good intentions. We endeavor to communicate directly, honestly and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict. When we hurt one another, we will try to forgive, make amends and reconnect in a spirit of right relationship. In celebration of the common mission that unites us, we will do our best to abide by this covenant."*

Calling All Committee Chairs

After the holidays end, we put away our decorations, eat the last cookie, and turn our thoughts to . . . our church budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Back to reality, folks!

Committee chairs need to begin thinking about their budget requests for FY 2012–2013. But, you say, my committee hasn't been funded before, or my committee was funded at a paltry sum, so what is the point of this exercise?

The point is to have both clear accountability and better governance. Committee accountability gives both responsibility and authority to that group. And better, more straightforward governance empowers not just your committee but all UUCers.

Your Board of Trustees (BOT) has been trying to wrap its collective mind around different models of governance. One of our overall goals is to move from micro-management to setting broad policies. Having committees be responsible for setting their own budgets will help achieve two BOT goals: (1) Committees are then held accountable to the mission of the church through the BOT (2) UUCE's current governance structure will become more obvious. Knowing where we are now will lead us on the correct path down the road.

The BOT is not the only group at UUCE thinking hard about the role of committees in the life of our church. You will all remember our spirited discussion about committees at December's Coordinating Council (CC) meeting. Working as a team, the CC is beginning to understand better the function of committees. What is their charge? How does that charge advance the church's mission? Does your committee overlap with others? How do members go on? How and when do they go off? Will your committee meet forever? Might it fulfill its charge better as a task force? Could your merry band really be a work group? Maybe it is really an affinity group? If so, where does it fit into the overall structure of the church?

In January, I will be sending around a questionnaire with these questions. You will be able to ask for the funds you would like for the next fiscal year. Can the BOT guarantee this amount? Of course not! But start thinking anyway. UUCE is simply too big now and will, without question, become waaay too big for us to fly by the collective seats of our pants. What your BOT is asking you to do now is to ponder. And then look for that committee questionnaire, come January!

-Susan Verner, Board VP

Web Team Working Group Report

The last year has been an intense and exciting one for the Web Team. In March of 2011, the new UUCE website was launched. In coordination with and approval by the church body, a major website migration, led by Ishbel "Ishi" Lane, moved the website from labor intensive static pages to a dynamic content management system (CMS), called Joomla. This also included a new website design. Among a long list of improvements, the CMS brought major productivity improvements by allowing multiple editors, requiring less reliance on Ishi and commercial software to edit and maintain content.

The Web Team's continuing work, through the collaboration of website editors Martha Osgood and Maren Peterson-DeGross, includes checking every page for completeness, uniformity, accuracy, visual appeal, and ease-of-use. This work has also included major reworking of the Membership, Newcomers and Religious Education pages as well as the main home page, involving communication with committee and group members. Martha and Maren's work has also included integrating the website into the content and publication process, and coordinating with the office regarding improvements on the calendar.

In the summer, Todd Woodward became involved with the Web Team to bring audio recordings (podcasts) to the site, which publicly launched in August. Todd, and now Glen Treiber, bring substantial technical talents to the Web Team. Ken Ross continues to advise, and remains as the liaison with the Personnel Committee and the Board.

On November 14th, the Web Team met to become a self-sufficient team without the need and involvement of Ishi, so that she can focus on important non-website publications. Todd Woodward was elected to lead the team, with Martha moving into a much needed outreach capacity.

The Web Team is working on several current and long-term projects, with the goal of being more responsive, flexible, and improving usability of the website. In addition, the team is more prepared for "disaster recovery" of the website, and is "spinning up" for a major required software update and redesign this year.

CARE COMMITTEE

As chair of the Care Committee, from time to time, I have an immediate need for "drivers" or people to prepare a meal for someone recovering from a surgery or other difficult time in their life, or other situations where your help is needed. It is important that when I publish this need on Share or Chat or Biz, that there is a good response, otherwise it's very difficult to satisfy these needs in a timely manner.

So, if you see such a plea from the Care Committee, consider it a priority and try to help us out!

The situations are usually brief, the rides are frequently less than 20 minutes or so. Currently, Ken, Laura, Don and myself are doing some driving. Jeanne-marie has been doing some coordination of the drivers. Of course, many others have helped in the past, and we are grateful for their participation! It is my position that we are all "members" of the Care Committee, and in our own way, we stand ready to assist our fellow congregants as the need arises. Indeed, many of you step up and help, long before the Care Committee is even involved. I think we can be proud of how often we are there for others!

We are truly a "caring church"!

Thank you, Bob Coleman, Care Committee Chair

Interweave

Potluck, Discussion & Movie Night

Interweave is a local group of LGBTIQ and Allies that meet to eat, watch and discuss a LGBTIQ themed movie each 2nd Fri.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| WHEN: | January 13th, 2012 Potluck at 6pm Movie at 7pm & discussion after |
| WHO: | All LGBT folks and allies |
| WHY: | Because we're really fun! |
| WHERE: | 40th & Donald |
| WHAT: | Featured Movie: BEGINNERS (2011) |
| COST: | FREE |

When it comes to relationships, we're all beginners. *Beginners* is a comedy/drama about how deeply funny and transformative life can be, even at its most serious moments.

More info, contact Nisco at
niscohappy@comcast.net

UUCE CONNECTIONS & APPRECIATIONS



See the Bulletin Board at church to see who is celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries in January!

THIRD SUNDAY COMMUNITY COLLECTION

January 15th

Watch your weekly e-Bulletin and OOS to see who January's Community Contribution will benefit.

Thank you for your generosity!
Sunday, 12/18/11 UUCE collected \$1033.31 for Thembanathi-Orphans Against AIDS!

Notice of Congregational Meeting

At its December 8 meeting, the UUCE Board of Trustees voted unanimously to call a special congregational meeting on January 15 after the 2nd service. The purpose of the meeting is to ask the congregation to approve the transfer of much of our endowment fund principal to the capital account, where it can be used to help us get in to our new facility by the end of this church year at the latest and hopefully sooner. Please plan to attend this important meeting and cast your vote on an issue of vital importance for the future of our church.

Happy New Year to you!

May every great new day
Bring you sweet surprises--
A happiness buffet.

Happy New Year to you,
And when the new year's done,
May the next year be even better,
Full of pleasure, joy and fun.

TAKING CARE OF OUR BLESSED EARTH

- * Take shorter showers
- * Wrap water heater in blanket
- * Wash clothes in warm or cold
- * Use low-phosphate detergent
- * Look for Energy-Star appliances



Green Sanctuary

IN CASE OF SNOW OR ICE,

CHECK YOUR EMAIL
OR UUCE'S WEBSITE
TO SEE WHETHER SUNDAY SERVICES
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.

Thank you Newsletter Helpers for your continued volunteering throughout the year!
You're appreciated!

January



2012

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Sunday Service 11am | 2 Office Closed SJUCE 7pm, SH | 3 Morning Doves 8am Men's Group (closed) 7pm, Rm 6 | 4 Choir Rehearsals 5:15 & 7pm, S Men's Group (closed) 7pm, Rm 5 | 5 Thundereggs 2pm RE Committee 6pm Rm 2 Meditation 6 pm, B Exec. Committee 7pm, SH OWL 7pm, Rm 5 | 6 | 7 Pearwood Pipers Yule Party 4:30pm, S |
| 8 Adult RE Forum 9:30am, Rm 6 Children's RE 11am Sunday Service 10 & 11am | 9 Chalice Choir 7pm, S Men's Group (closed) 7pm | 10 Morning Doves 8am Archive Cmte 10am, SH Staff Meeting 11am, B SGM 6:30pm, Rm 5 Dessert & Conversation 7pm, S Men's Group (closed) 7pm, Rm 6 | 11 Choir Rehearsals 5:15 & 7pm, S Adult RE Committee 5:30pm, B Interfaith Prayer Service 6:45pm, offsite Men's Group (open) 7pm, Rm 6 | 12 Thundereggs 2pm Meditation 6 pm, B Board Meeting 7pm, SH OWL 7pm, Rm 5 | 13 Women's Alliance Potluck 12am, SH Interweave Potluck & Movie Night 6pm, S/SH | 14 Coordinating Council 9:30am, SH |
| 15 Adult RE Forum 9:30am, Rm 6 Children's RE 11am Sunday Services 10 & 11am Congregation Mtg 12:30pm, S | 16 Office Closed <i>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</i> FOC 5:30 pm, SH Chalice Choir 7pm, S | 17 Morning Doves 8am Membership Comm 6pm, SH Men's Group (closed) 7pm, Rm 6 | 18 Choir Rehearsals 5:15 & 7pm, S Men's Group (closed) 7 pm, Rm 5 | 19 Thundereggs 2pm offsite Calm Abiding Meditation 6pm, B OWL 7pm, Rm 5 | 20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> | 21 PNW Stewardship Training 9am, S |
| 22 Adult RE Forum 9:30am, Rm 6 Children's RE 11am Sunday Services 10 & 11am SGM 12:30pm, Rm 1 CUUPS 4pm, Rm 5 | 23 Men's Group (closed) 7pm Chalice Choir 7pm, S Music Cmte 5:40pm, SH | 24 Morning Doves 8am SGM 6:30pm, Rm 5 Men's Group (closed) 7pm, Rm 6 | 25 Memoirs Group 9:30am, Rm 5 Choir Rehearsals 5:15 & 7pm, S Cap Campaign Mtg 5:30pm, B Men's Group (open) 7pm, Rm 6 | 26 Book Club 2pm Thundereggs 2pm offsite Calm Abiding Meditation 6pm, B FFLC 7pm OWL 7pm, Rm 5 | 27 Newsletter Mailing | 28 |
| 29 Adult RE Forum 9:30am, Rm 6 Children's RE 11am Sunday Services 10 & 11am CUUPS 4pm, Rm 5 | 30 Chalice Choir 7pm, S | 31 Morning Doves 8am Men's Group (closed) 7pm, Rm 6 | | | | |

K B: Breezeway room
BPOC: Building Project Oversight Cmte
E CC: Coordinating Council
Y COCM: Cmte on Congregational Ministry

FOC: Finance Oversight Cmte
L: Library
NL: Newsletter

RE: Religious Education
SC: Sandburg Center
S: Sanctuary
SH: Social Hall
SGM: Small Ministry group

SJUUCE: Social Justice at UUCE
SPC: Strategic Planning Cmte
T: Tentative meeting
UUCE: Unitarian Universalist
Church in Eugene

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*We, the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene,
empowered by love, we transform our lives and serve our world.*

UUCE Mission Statement



Resolve to make at least one person happy every day, and then in ten years you may have made three thousand, six hundred and fifty persons happy, or brightened a small town by your contribution to the fund of general enjoyment.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Minister | Rev. Alicia Forsey |
| Director of Religious Ed | Katy Siepert |
| DRE Assistant | Jen-Lin Hodgden |
| Director of Music | Tom Sears |
| Pianist: | Lynn Smith |
| Board President: | Mary Otten |
| Office Administrator: | Kim Harris |
| Office Assistant | Tonya Cates |
| Publications Specialist: | Ishbel Lane |
| Sunday Childcare: | Svetlana Dunbar, Shinai Grzebielski |
| Custodian: | Matt Kosanke |

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, January 20 at 11am

Send newsletter submissions to: publications@uueugene.org
WEBSITE: WWW.UUEUGENE.ORG