



THE DRUMMER

October 2010

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills

SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER

October 3, 9:00 & 11:30 am

Standing on the Side of Love—for Centuries!

Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister

This Sunday we join with most other UU congregations in recognizing "Anniversary Sunday," a national program of the UUA. I will depart from the common topic to emphasize our UU heritage, specifically William Ellery Channing.



October 10, 9:00 & 11:30 am

American Afterlife

Led by Kate Sweeney

Someone dies in America. Our colonial forebears might design a beautiful headstone and give out mementos to commemorate the event at a huge, drunken party. A mid-to-upper-class Victorian woman might don dark colors and mourning jewelry containing the hair of her lost loved one for two years or the rest of her life. Today, our decisions about how we remember our dead reflect our history in surprising ways, even as we strive to make choices that feel fresh. In her as-yet-unpublished book, **American Afterlife**, Kate Sweeney presents a collective portrait of Americans past and present, personally involved with death. It's serious. It's funny. And now it's a service at Sunnyhill.

October 17, 9:00 & 11:30 am.

Oh, No! Not Again!

Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister

This Sunday we begin our annual stewardship campaign with a particularly ambitious goal. As your interim I emphasize this message: UUCSH is turning a corner in many ways. You have the most appealing future, with a new minister arriving soon, a vigorous Building Feasibility Study, and a revitalized Board with volunteer support. Let us step toward the future with energy, enthusiasm, and a renewed commitment to a vibrant Sunnyhill community.

October 24, 9:00 & 11:30 am

In Praise of Doubt

Led by Rev. Tim Temerson, Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron, Ohio

Asking questions and having doubt are often seen as the enemies of faith and the spiritual life. Today we will celebrate our questions and the positive role doubt can play in the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Rev. Temerson has served the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron as minister since August of 2009. A graduate of Andover Newton Theological School in the Boston-area, Tim and his wife, Carol, have two children and live in Medina, Ohio.



October 31, 9:00 & 11:30 am

Halloween

Led by Spiritways CUUPs Leadership Team

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain which marked the end of harvest and the beginning of winter, a time of year associated with death. The pagan Celts believed that on that night each year, the veil between the worlds of the living and dead became thin. It was a special time each year, and its sacredness was experienced differently for each person. Join members of Spiritways CUUPs as they describe the significance of this day from a Pagan perspective. *(Note: This will be a normal UU service; it is not a ritual. The Pagan ritual of Samhain will be celebrated at 7:00PM in the main room and all adults are welcome.)*



Congregational Meeting

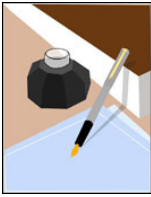
Sunday, October 10
12:45 to 1:45 pm

New Sunnyhill Directory Now Available

Please pick up the new Sunnyhill directory in the office. They will also be in the dining room on the first two Sundays of October.

SUNNYHILL MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to foster intellectual and spiritual growth by upholding a free search for truth within a liberal religious setting. In a warm, intimate, and diverse environment, we support one another on our lifelong journeys and through the transitions in our lives. Committed to Unitarian Universalist principles, we seek to build a just and compassionate community both within and beyond Sunnyhill."



JAYWALKING

by the Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister

The big doe looked sternly at us, and then she moved in front of her two very healthy fawns in an aggressive stance. She wanted to intimidate us, and I was feeling the pressure, but she had not counted on my companion.



Ghillie is a Cairn Terrier, which means he is constitutionally unable to back down from a fight. I had to pull him back to the roadside and walk away, while he was complaining loudly.

A ghillie is the steward of the land on a Scottish estate. He is in charge of maintaining the forests, keeping the brooks stocked with trout, and guarding against poachers, among other chores. We bought Ghillie from a Pennsylvania farm family about 100 miles east of the Ohio border

near I-80. He was the last remaining puppy of the litter, and he was already comfortable on the farm. During our visit he chased a frog into the sizable pond near the house! He seriously wants to be an outdoor dog, and he misses the big (and flat!) yard of our house in Fort Wayne.

Isn't it funny how differently we respond to threats? Each of us, under differing circumstances, might respond to a similar threat differently, and, of course, each of us responds in a different way than our spouse or partner, children, or friends do. Ghillie responded to the doe's threatening stance by lowering his haunches (no mean feat for a dog with extremely short, stubby legs) and raising his head, baring his teeth and growling. The doe wasn't too impressed, but perhaps she should have been. Terriers were bred for

tenacity, not good sense.

So, too, many of us dig in to perceived threats when good sense, common decency, or a generous attitude might suggest meaningful alternatives to aggression, personal, cultural, or national. Our churches are little experimental communities where we practice being civil, polite, generous, and positive. They are first steps toward building the world in which we want our children to live. Let's face it: we all need to practice kindness; it doesn't come as easy as we might wish.

Ghillie and I were not really threats to the doe and her fawns, but how was she to know that? Constantly, we must engage the world in peace-making, personal, communal, and internationally.

—Jay

JOB OPENING: TREASURER

Next Spring a new Sunnyhill Treasurer will be elected as the current one will have reached the allotted time in office.

Candidates should have computer skills and an interest in accounting (personal financial accounting will be helpful). However, it is not at all necessary to be an accountant. Interested parties should contact the current treasurer to discuss the job in more detail.

Hopefully an interested party will be

identified and receive detailed training before taking office after being elected.

The new treasurer will experience the thrill of handling over \$250,000 a year and working with a marvelous staff and assistant treasurer, Barb McCracken.

—Charlie Cook,
Current Treasurer



Garden & Grounds Committee New Chair(s) Needed

If you enjoy gardening and want to keep Sunnyhill beautiful, please consider chairing (or co-chairing) the committee next year.

This is the eighth year that we have coordinated the committee, and in keeping with the policy to rotate committee chairs, we plan to turn it over to somebody else next year. If you are interested, please let the Board or us know.

—Carl and Liz Bergmann



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Cheryl Kelley, Director of Religious Education

Can you smell it...the smell of change in the air? This time of year brings many changes. Right now you have probably just gotten accustomed to the new fall routine. Kids are asking to sleep just five more minutes, the summer routine of catching fireflies is replaced with homework, cold salads are replaced with warm soups, and you are just now trying to figure out where you put your rakes from last year.

Changes can be a good thing; at least that's what I'm told. Personally, I think some changes are good and some take a bit of getting used to.

We have started a change here at Sunnyhill that might take a bit of getting used to, but in the long run, hopefully you'll find that you like it. I'm talking about the "supervised play time" during the LifeCraft hour (10:15-11:15). It used to be that, as one parent phrased it so eloquently, the kids were "free ranging" during that time. Although many of us like free-range food, with children it's another matter. Many of the kids would take advantage of Sunnyhill's playground and, well, play, mostly unsupervised, during this hour. Unfortunately, kids left to their own devices tend to test their environment and the patience of adults.

Watching them from my office, you

would think it was a gymnastics camp. I am amazed at how agile they are as they scale the trolley and scamper across the fences. But then you start to see just how dangerous their activities become. What's a parent to do? You want to socialize, you might want to go to a LifeCraft class, but where can you put the kids so that they're safe and still having fun?

So, just the like the UU heroes the younger kids are learning about, Sunnyhill has its own heroes. Anita Hager and Betta Risa have graciously agreed to supervise your children during LifeCraft so that you can do what adults like to do...talk. As changes go, this one is easy. Right after the 9:00 service, instead of going to Coffee and Conversation, go get your children from their RE class, sign them in for supervised play time, and you get to go right back to the adults and drink all the coffee you want. You can spend the next hour socializing or try out one of the LifeCraft classes. Everyone wins with this change!

What's the catch? There is none. For children in nursery school through 2nd grade, escort them to the nursery, and our two wonderful babysitters, Emily and Lisa, will have you sign your children in and off you go. For the older kids, 3rd through 8th,

grades, bring them to the main room in the basement, look for an adult with a clipboard (that will be Anita or Betta), and while you finish your coffee and head off to LifeCraft, your children will enjoy outdoor play in good weather, and on those Sundays when the weather isn't cooperative, they will play games and other activities in the basement.

Trust me, they will have a great time and you will too, knowing that your children are safe and happy. Please note that this is a pilot program. We will be testing things out and as time goes on, work out the kinks. Also, as time goes on, we will need other Sunnyhill heroes to step up and help with the supervision of the children.

So let's raise our glasses to the success of this pilot program with this quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson on what he considered success:

*Success is—
to laugh often and much
to appreciate beauty
to find the best in others
to leave the world a bit better
to know even one life has
breathed easier
because you lived.*

In peace,

—Cheryl

DESIGNATED OFFERING FOR OCTOBER

Family Services of Western Pennsylvania Educational Assistance Program
College and Vocational Financial Support for Foster Children

On their 18th birthday, young adults in foster programs are no longer eligible for the social services that have helped them for years. In legal terms they are emancipated, leaving them with no support to pursue education beyond high school. Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, an award-winning social services agency in our area, has begun an educational assistance program to help the young people who want to continue their education but who have no parental or financial support to sustain this goal.

Their Educational Assistance Program provides financial assistance for promising young people who have aged out of social services by providing them with funding for items such as computers, books, transportation, rent, living costs, and college or vocational training fees.

This program was started three years ago and is totally funded by private donations. It has provided assistance to 75 students since then.

Sunnyhill's involvement with this program began as a social service activity done by the chalice circle

that Nina Balsamo and I facilitated.

Why should we give? Education beyond high school is vital to the success of young people in their careers both personally and professionally. We are a highly educated group. We should share our academic opportunities.

Giving now will help to finance students who can begin their 2011 spring semester with fewer financial worries.

—Dennis Sweeney

CHIPS FROM THE BOARD

The Sunnyhill Board of Trustees met on September 13, 2010.

Joining the Board was Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister, and Gary VanGelder, of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC). Highlights from staff reports are as follows:

- Rev. Abernathy reported that he has conducted his first staff meeting, and has made some limited contributions to the work of committees and other groups. He has found everyone cooperative and noted that the staff has been especially helpful through his transition to Sunnyhill thus far.
- Our Director of Religious Education, Cheryl Kelley, indicated that Summer RE was a success, and she received compliments from both parents and teachers. She also noted that all the teaching slots have been filled for session one for the coming year, and preparations are underway for the Coming of Age program and the Holiday Pageant.
- Elizabeth Mortimer, Congregational Administrator, reported that we currently have 189 Members and 76 Friends, with 16 Visitors during the month of August. She has had a very busy month, and worked to update our membership database, maintained the Living Room Conversation meeting results, worked with the Membership, Communications, and Canvas Committees, trained our new janitorial service, and is completing the new 2010-2011 Sunnyhill Directory and Program Guides.
- Charlie Cook, Treasurer, reported that in August there were increases in both pledge and non-pledge income, resulting in a continuing improving financial picture and direction. Charlie has compiled a draft of a budget for the upcoming year. The initial canvas goal is suggested to be \$225,000.00.

—continued next page

AUGUST 2010 TREASURER'S REPORT

SUMMARY

In August there were increases in both pledge and non-pledge income resulting in a continuing improvement of our financial picture and direction. Our Pledge income through August stands at about \$7,800 below budget for the year to date which is an improvement over the \$9,700 deficit in pledge income at the end of July and over \$11,000 deficit at the end of June. For July and August, our pledge income was ahead of budget by about \$4,000. Due to better than expected fund raising income and cash contributions, the total income was \$5,361 below budget. Most expense categories are close to budget and total approximately \$1,960 greater than expected. Over all, as of August year to date, our net cash flow was negative \$10,166 of which a negative \$4,300 was anticipated in the budget due to the timing of fund raising activities.

August was a time of extensive financial activity and expense most of which should be considered investments in the future. Hopefully we will see corresponding increases in financial support in the future.

DIRECTED INCOME AND EXPENSES

All income and expenses occurring outside the budget (except for those in the capital expense fund, discussed below) are now captured in Directed Income and Expense accounts. The total directed income to date is \$26,445 and expenses total \$14,529. By the end of the year, or sooner, credits or debits will be made into and out of other funds to balance the total of these transactions to zero. The following are the highlights of these accounts:

- Designated offerings now total \$8,407 including the August 29 collection of \$853 for Pakistan.
- We have received \$6000 for the building feasibility Study.
- The collection for the new tractor has reached \$6,475.
- The gutter repair cost \$1,470 which was offset by income of \$950 from an insurance claim and member donation.

Designated Offering for 2010 Through August 31	
Cause	Collected
Clearwater Acq	\$420.00
Haiti	\$1,496.50
Hekima place	\$831.01
Pakistan	\$853.00
St Winifreds	\$3,614.94
Lisa Styles	\$703.00
Uganda Children	\$489.01
Totals =	\$8,407.46

BALANCE SHEET

The following significant activities have occurred on our Balance Sheet:

- A pre-paid asset account was created for the \$5,000 moving expense for our new interim minister, Rev. Jay Abernathy. It will be paid off monthly at the rate of \$417 for 12 months charging interim minister expense.
- Youth group fund received the \$1,113 profit from the Italian Dinner.
- The Capital Expense fund is intended for the expense of items of significant longevity. It receives \$300 monthly from the Capital Expense account. It has decreased from \$5,822 at the beginning of this year to \$2,705 with the following transactions through August 31:
 1. Income of \$2,400 from the capital expense account.
 2. New basement toilet: \$157
 3. Share cost for moving pianos in and out of Sunnyhill: \$220
 4. New computer server: \$2,996
 5. AED (automated external defibrillator) \$1495
 6. Tractor expense transactions totaling \$548.49.

—Charlie Cook
Treasurer

CHIPS FROM THE BOARD CONTINUED

Highlights from reports submitted from committees are as follows:

- Membership Committee has submitted a proposed budget, confirmed upcoming Pathway to Membership classes and a Joining Ceremony date with Rev. Abernathy, worked with Elizabeth Mortimer to prepare the 2010–11 directories, and has facilitated a number of social opportunities for new visitors and members.
- The Caring Committee reports that volunteers are needed for transportation, meals, light chores, and memorial service help. Thirteen individuals or families received either a card, phone call, visit, transportation, or meal in August. The most important issue for the Caring Committee is a need for a co-chair.
- The Stewardship Committee update from the Canvass Subcommittee has determined that Canvass Sunday will be October 17, 2010. This year they will conduct speed pledging: people can meet at Sunnyhill briefly to fill out their pledge form. They need volunteers and plan to wrap-up in late November.
- The Communications Committee reports that a new ad has been created for the **Green Tree Times**.
- The Garden Committee has facilitated the painting of new lines in the parking lot.

Additional details regarding the staff and committee reports are contained in the official Board Minutes and are available to the congregation.

Other business is as follows:

- The Board is exploring the possibility of obtaining an Abatibi recycling bin, which will serve to keep us green as well as raise money. There is a waiting list, and we are hoping to be approved in October.
- The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been purchased. Guidelines are being put in place and training has been scheduled.

- The Board discussed the outcome, to date, of the Living Room Conversation process which is providing input for a new Focus Statement for Sunnyhill. The process is winding down, with three (3) final meetings scheduled for the end of September for those unable to participate so far. The final suggestions for the new Sunnyhill Focus Statement will be distilled down by a small working group, and then submitted to the congregation for vote during the upcoming Congregational Meeting on October 10, 2010 at 12:45pm. At that time, we will also be voting on whether or not to proceed with the Building Feasibility Study.
- A considerable amount of time was spent debating the salary plus housing range, as well as the total cost of ministry, that the MSC can offer to potential candidates for our Settled Minister position. It was agreed that we intend to offer mid-range compensation for a mid-sized congregation, which would then designate Sunnyhill as a Fair Compensation Congregation as defined by UUA guidelines. This is important for our ability to attract the most qualified field of candidates. The MSC plans to release our packet by November 1, 2010. By late January or early February the MSC will start looking at specific candidates.
- Drafts of job descriptions have been created for our staff by the Personnel Committee. The degree to which these descriptions conform to UUA job descriptions as well as other details is being reviewed.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, October 11, 2010, at 7:00 pm in the Pumpkin Room.

—Carol J. Jaworski
Sunnyhill Board of Trustees

COMMITTEE NEWS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

As the new Sunnyhill liaison with the UUSC, I would like to share some information I have learned about this important part of our UU denomination. The UUSC is the arm of UU working for social justice in our world. Its mission statement is based on the 1948 United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and our seven UU principles.

What does it do: The UUSC partners with grass roots organizations here and in other countries such as Haiti, Sudan, and Uganda to provide grants, technical assistance, exchange of information, and human rights advocacy. A list of partners can be seen on the UUSC website. UUSC provides education and advocacy for public policy with members of congress when needed and opportunities for social activists to visit and provide hands-on assistance with some projects.

How is it funded: The UUSC receives 60% of its funding from memberships and the rest from donations from congregations and individuals. To find out how to become a member or for more information about what they do, go to www.uusc.org. An individual membership is \$40. In the fall, our youth group will be providing **Guest at our Table Boxes**, a project to raise money from our congregation for UUSC.

Our Social Justice committee will be looking for other ways to assist UUSC with their work.

—Pat Troell

SUNNYHILL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Bob Trivus has stepped down as chairperson of the Sunnyhill Sunday Service Committee to have more time for other important pursuits. Julie Ann Sullivan has agreed to take over as chair. Bob will continue as a member of the committee.

The committee's charge is to present a variety of diverse programs for the one or two lay-led services each month.

—Program Committee

COMMITTEE NEWS CONTINUED

GARDEN & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Since the 2010 garden season is about over, we'd like to acknowledge the efforts of the people involved in the Garden and Grounds Committee and just say thanks for all your work. The people who purchased and maintained plants for the gardens include Nina Balsamo, Carl Bergmann, Chris Burns, Vijay Chandhok, Julie Harris, Margaret Hamstead, Beth Hedin, Cheryl Kelly, Margaret Lindquist, Pat Murray, the R. E. Children, Dara Swartwout and Girl Scout Cadets, Tom Stroman, Martha Sweeney, Pat Wurster, Susan Marquesen, and Robert Williams. We received many compliments during the summer about how nice the gardens were. They continue to be a source of beauty and are well worth the exertion.

In addition to cutting the many bushes and yews around Sunnyhill, the Grounds Crew spent additional time performing the following:

- Completely removed or trimmed many bushes along the north neighbor's yard
- Cut about six inches of grass from the Washington road sidewalk
- Removed several dead branches

from trees and trimmed many bushes in the playground area

- Painted parking lot lines, no-parking area alerts, bumpers and removed eight broken bumpers

The nine people who performed the work include Carl Bergmann, Larry Comden, Mike Farb, Joe Lodge, Denny McCracken, Kimball Nedved, Dan Story, Tom Stroman, and Robert Williams.

As usual, Robert Williams cut the expansive lawn with the new tractor, occasionally assisted by Charlie Cook and George Williams.

We appreciate the efforts of all of those involved in the gardens and grounds. If you enjoy gardening and want to see Sunnyhill continue to be beautiful, please consider joining the committee next year. There is always plenty to do to keep you busy and interested. This is the eighth year that we have coordinated the

committee and in line with the policy to rotate the chairman, we are planning to turn it over to somebody else next year. If you are interested, please let the Board or us know.

—Carl and Liz Bergmann



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ONE-STOP UUCSH ORIENTATION CLASS: ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW & SNACKS TO BOOT

UUCSH's orientation class, Pathway to Membership, will take place **Sunday, Oct. 31, 10:00 am to noon**, at Sunnyhill. The class will overview Unitarian Universalism and offer other resources—printed and human—to help you understand UUCSH's operation and connect with congregational activities. Interim minister Rev. Dr. Jay Abernathy and Membership Committee members will lead the session. Those who wish to share a brief summary of their spiritual journeys may do so. Snacks will be provided; child care will be available. For more information, talk with Membership Committee Chair Toni Murray. To sign up for the class, email admin@sunnyhill.org or call 412-561-6277 by **Monday, Oct. 18**. If you will need child care, please specify the children's names, ages, and sexes.

Completing the Pathway to Membership class is a prerequisite to membership. Attending the class in no way obligates an attendee to becoming a member. The Oct. 31 class will be the last of 2010. The first Pathway class of 2011 will be in January.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE THANKS, GARTH!

Garth Schafer recently tackled an update of the Spiritways CUUPS portion of the Sunnyhill website. Garth says some content work is still to be done (essentially getting old and new information into the appropriate places), but a new framework has been built with a menu system down the side of every page, making it easy to add, remove, change, and update pages of information. The new pages also include a Moon Phase calculator. Similar tools are coming soon!

Garth thanks the Spiritways CUUPS Group for allowing him to do this for them, and he thanks his friend Sean Johnston for the help with scripting and some design tweaking.

Check it out! Go to <http://groups.sunnyhill.org/cuups/>

—Communications Committee

FUNDRAISING ACTION COMMITTEE (FRAC)

Should we continue the Flower Sale and Pancake Breakfast? Should we skip a year and see if we find some new volunteers? Should we change the event to a Sunday morning?

Come to the next FRAC meeting on October 14 at 7:00 pm at Sunnyhill to help answer that question and others. We want to know what YOU think about continuing the Flower Sale and Pancake Breakfast.

There are many ideas and options and all will be explored at this meeting. Hope to see you there.

Any questions, please email Amy Kent, FRAC Chair. (Personal email available in the Sunnyhill directory.)

—Amy Kent



SUNNYHILL CANVASS KICKS OFF IN OCTOBER!

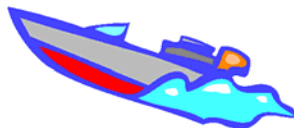
October marks the start of Sunnyhill's canvass season, when Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills make their pledges of financial support to continue the work of Sunnyhill.

Never has an annual canvass been more important to the future of Sunnyhill. As a congregation, we have made the decision to call a new, full-time settled minister. Now we must, as a congregation, pledge to provide the level of financial support needed to make this a reality.



Our pledge goal this year is \$225,000. This figure was adopted by the Board of Trustees at the September meeting, and is based on the Ministerial Search Committee's recommendation for the salary needed to attract the kind of minister we need. Compare this goal to the 2010 pledge total of \$187,000 and it is clear that, as a congregation, **we must increase our giving in 2011.**

"Speed Pledging" will be conducted for three Sundays in October. This year, rather than having a large group of canvassers meet individually with Members and Friends to discuss and collect pledge forms, we will borrow an idea from speed dating culture and conduct Speed Pledging sessions. In these sessions, several volunteer canvassers will sit at tables distributed around a room at Sunnyhill. Members and friends can sit at a table, fill out their pledge forms, and hand them directly to the canvassers. For those members and friends preferring a face-to-face canvass, these will be made available upon request.



Canvass Sunday is October 17. Pledge packets will be available for pick-up on or before October 17. Reverend Jay Abernathy will lead the service. Speed Pledging will be available immediately following both services on October 17, 24, and 31.

Volunteers are Needed! We need volunteers for the following tasks:



- Help with Speed Pledging sessions, receiving pledges from members and friends;
- Make follow-up phone calls to those who do not return pledges during Speed Pledging sessions;
- Be available to do one-on-one canvassing for those members and friends who prefer an individualized approach.

Please help the Canvass Committee (Carl Bergmann, Dan Nery, and me) to wrap up the canvass by early November, so that we can provide the information to the Board as they develop the 2011 budget. **Get your pledge in on time, pledge generously, and volunteer to help with the canvass.** To volunteer, contact any member of the committee.

—Lee Young, Canvass Chair



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Committee continues its background work, spending many hours compiling information about *who we are* before we start our search. The Congregational Packet includes information about our history, our members, our staff, our Board, the Search Committee, the many activities Sunnyhill offers, our RE program, the local community, etc.

Thanks to all who participated in the MSC Survey and attended Living Room Conversations! The survey results, which clearly show our interests and priorities—in colorful charts and graphs, no less—is being compiled. The survey, along with the entire Congregational Packet, will be available for you to see next month.

A workshop, **Beyond Categorical Thinking**, will be presented on **Saturday, November 6**. See detail below. The Search Committee is hoping you will be there for an important opportunity to take a look at ourselves.

—Alan, Chetan, Gary, Jean, Louise, Patty, and Sibyl

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop

Saturday, Nov 6, 9:00 am to Noon

The *Beyond Categorical Thinking* program, sponsored by the UUA, works with UU congregations to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process. In the workshop congregations learn more about its institutional culture, examine ways it can be more inclusive in its consideration of ministerial candidates, and surface subtle and often unintentional, unconscious biases members hold that may result in a decision to not select the minister who would be the best fit for a congregation's ministerial needs.

The *Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop* is an opportunity for conversations and reflection for the congregation to identify issues related to identity. In the process, we will explore some of these biases and learn more about the search process.

All are invited and encouraged to attend the workshop. More details to follow closer to the date.

SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH

Chili & Soup Cookoff—Back for the 4th Year!

Saturday, October 2, 2010

6:00 pm Dinner Served

****Soup, chili, salad, rolls, dessert, beverage****

(5:30 pm all soups brought to Sunnyhill)

Adults \$8.00 per person (age 12 and up)

Kids \$6.00 per person (age 4 to 11)

Little Kids are free (3 and under)

Note: Only the cook eats for free.

All proceeds become seed money for Sunnyhill-To-Go

There's still time to submit a recipe. Email recipes to Janie Elliott. Those who have committed to preparing a soup, please email your recipes to Janie. *Note: There is no childcare for this event. Lots of hot pots. Kids must stay with parents.*

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 10

12:45 to 1:45 pm.

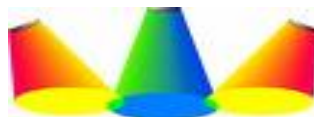
The two agenda items will be:

- The question of whether to proceed with a Building Feasibility Study
- Adoption of a Focus Statement that will represent who we are as the UUCSH.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this VERY IMPORTANT meeting.

—Margaret Hamstead

The Stewardship Spotlight Shines on . . .



- ☺ John Hemington—he donated a beautiful laser printer! And not just the printer—also about \$4,800 worth of toner!
- ☺ George Williams—he replaced the closet light fixture on the 2nd floor
- ☺ BK Kosmach and her ice cream crew—they moved tables, scooped ice cream, and cleaned up so the rest of us could celebrate the end of a fabulous summer with yummy ice cream and toppings.
- ☺ Garth Schafer (and his friend Sean Johnston)—for updating the Spiritways CUUPS web pages
- ☺ Herb Caponi—he has volunteered to set up tables for the Chili & Soup Cookoff (Janie's and Dara's backs thank you!)
- ☺ Donna Kaufman—for taking inventory of paper products, spices, etc. so the Cookoff and Sunnyhill-To-Go will be more cost efficient.

ENJOY BOOKS FOR SALE

We are selling Enjoy Books for the benefit of South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM). The cost is \$27 of which SHIM gets \$10 and you get a tax deduction for that amount. See me after services in the dining room or contact me and I will arrange to meet you at the service you attend.

—Helen Andrews

Autumn's Bounty

A Dining Experience
To defray cost of AED

Autumn's Bounty is upon us, and you may still have the opportunity to be among twenty lucky diners at the six-course dinner on Saturday, October 30 at 7:00 pm. Some of our most talented chefs are donating their time and expertise to plan and prepare a sumptuous feast complete with carefully selected small vineyard wines. Courses will include the amuse bouche, appetizer, salad, intermezzo, main course, and dessert.

Please check the dining room for reservation forms. Reservations complete with the donation of \$100 per person will be accepted as per form details. Proceeds from the Autumn's Bounty dinner will defray the purchase cost of Sunnyhill's new Automated External Defibrillator, which will help to ensure the safety of all members, friends and visitors.

Inclusion for All Souls' Service

If you have lost a close relative or friend and would like her/his name to be included in the *Order of Service* for our annual All Souls' Service on October 31, please give the following information to Elizabeth Mortimer by Sunday, October 24. Your loved one need not be a blood relative or a recent passing to be remembered at this moving service.

Your Loved One's Name:

Your Name:

Relationship To You:

You can email Elizabeth at admin@sunnyhill.org. There are also forms in the dining room you can complete and put in the red mailbox outside the office.

New Sunnyhill Directory Now Available

Please pick up the new directory in the office. They will also be in the dining room on the first two Sundays of October.

Calling All Artists ...

Sunnyhill-To-Go is right around the corner. Artists and crafters who would like to participate should contact Andrea Reichenfeld (phone and email in Sunnyhill directory). We had beautiful artwork last year, and I can't wait to see what our artists present this year!

—Andrea Reichenfeld



SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH CONTINUED

Habitat/Sunnyhill Dates

Remaining dates are Oct 9, Nov 13, and Dec 4. If you have questions, please contact Beth Hedin.

Remember

Please use your Sunnyhill Directory to find phone and email information. Personal contact information will not appear in *The Drummer*.

Got a Music Question?

Carol Karl has asked that Sunnyhillers use her home phone and personal email address to contact her.

Copies of *UU World*

Please recycle your copy by placing it in the folder marked *Membership* in the hallway.

Adult RE: The Hidden Light

Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Centers around philosophy and esoteric practices and meditations from the Western Occult Tradition and Eastern philosophies concerning the Inner Light as still taught in the extant Mystery Schools today. First meeting will be Tuesday, September 27 at 7:00 pm.
—Gerry Walsh

Finding Kindred Spirits in Green Tree and Points West

The advertisement below will be placed in the *The Green Tree Times* in October.

—Membership Committee

Ethics. Values. Religious Literacy.



Where can you find religious education for kids that strengthens character, stresses deeds rather than creeds, and welcomes questions?

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE SOUTH HILLS
NURTURING SPIRITS AND TEACHING VALUES SINCE 1968.

1240 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, Pa 15228 ALL ARE WELCOME!
412-561-6277 • www.sunnyhill.org

Spiritways Drumming Resumes!

Spiritways will have monthly drumming sessions from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on October 15 and November 19 in the main room at Sunnyhill. No experience necessary. Bring your drums and percussion instruments (no bells please) and join us for a moving experience. Very informal and all levels of skill are welcome.
—BK Kosmach

Downtowners' Lunch Group

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month. The October lunch is Thursday, October 28. This provides an opportunity for you to meet other Sunnyhillers while sharing lunch at different restaurants downtown. The time is 11:45 to 12:45. We would like to invite any Sunnyhiller to join us, whether you work downtown or not. Watch the Beat for the restaurant of the month. If you would like to join us (and we would love to have you), contact Lorraine Carabetta by October 26.

First Friday Discussion Group will meet at Sunnyhill

on October 1 at 7:30 pm

Matt Bevan will present *Promoting Ethics in Society*. This looks to be an extremely interesting discussion. Hope to see you there. Please call or email me with questions. My contact information is in the directory.
—Herb Caponi

If you are reading this, then you are reading *The Drummer*! Please take advantage of *The Drummer* and *The Beat*, important communication tools for Sunnyhill. Get a heads up on Sunday Services! Learn important dates and times! Keep up-to-the-minute!

PENN'S CORNER FARM STAND

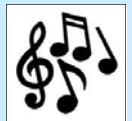
is coming to Mt. Lebanon!

Pre-order local meats, cheeses, produce and more **ONLINE**, then pick them up at Sunnyhill Unitarian Universalist Church!

Email farmstand@pennscorner.com or go to pennscorner.com for more information.
The first monthly Farm Stand is Monday, August 16!

Penn's Corner Farm Alliance is a cooperative in Southwestern Pennsylvania of 30 member farms that deliver local fruits, vegetables, meats, cheeses and other products to residents in the Pittsburgh area through restaurant deliveries, Community Supported Agriculture, and monthly online Farm Stands. Sunnyhill is now one of the year-round Farm Stand pick up sites! Penn's Corner offers quality products to Mt. Lebanon residents through this partnership with Sunnyhill. Ordering from Penn's Corner Farm Stand supports local farmers. To be put on the email list, send an email to farmstand@pennscorner.com. You will receive emails with the monthly list of products and can email your order to Penn's Corner and pick it up at Sunnyhill. The pick-up date is usually the 2nd Monday of each month, 4:00 to 6:30pm!

Attention Parents of Kids Who Like to Sing!



We hope to have a Children's Choir this year, and we need parents who are willing to commit their time to allow their little singers to become part of it. Angela Dipner has volunteered her time again to help out, so please find her email/phone in the Directory to tell her of your interest. Please make sure your children have a sincere desire to sing with a group and are willing to attend practices and take direction.

—Carol Karl, Director

SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH CONTINUED

CIVICS FOR GROWN-UPS

WHEN: Thursdays in October. All classes held 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Upper St. Clair High School, Classrooms 148-49.

YOUR TEACHERS:

Morton Coleman, Ph.D is Director Emeritus of the Institute of Politics of the University of Pittsburgh and Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

Charles (Chas) Hirsh taught high school civics for most of his 35 years of teaching. He still believes an informed citizenry is the backbone of a democratic society.

GUEST LECTURERS:

Eric W. Springer, L.L.B. is a retired senior partner of Horthy, Springer and Mattern, P.C., which he cofounded in 1971. Eric has served as a member of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations and was the first African American to serve as President of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

Witold "Vic" Walczak, is the Legal Director of the ACLU of Pennsylvania. Vic joined the ACLU in 1992, after five years of prisoners' rights work. Vic specializes in free speech and religious-liberty cases and has handled nationally significant cases involving challenges to widespread police misconduct, substandard public-defender services, the teaching of "intelligent design." Vic was co-lead counsel in a precedent-setting case challenging an anti-illegal immigrant ordinance in Hazleton, PA, the first of its kind in the nation.

DATES AND SUBJECTS COVERED

Thursday, Oct 7. What Were They Thinking: The Constitution & Bill of Rights. The set-up of the U.S. government, with a special focus on separation of powers, checks and balances .

Thursday, Oct 14. Who's Suing Who: The Law and The Courts. Eric Springer will review the structure of the judicial system and distinguish between the types of cases that are heard in the federal courts and those heard in the state courts.

Thursday, Oct 21. My Free Speech is Better Than Your Free Speech: Civil Liberties Highlights in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Across the Country. Vic Walczak will cover some of the most controversial issues and questions that arose from the Bill of Rights and how they have been litigated in the courts.

Thursday, Oct 28. The Government and You: Roles, Rights & Responsibilities. We will review what government owes to citizens and what citizens owe to the government and how those rights and responsibilities are separate and intertwined.

Direct questions to 412-681-7736 or info@aclupgh.org to reserve a place for one or all sessions. The program is free and open to the public.

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop

Saturday, Nov 6, 9:00 am to Noon
The Beyond Categorical Thinking program, sponsored by the UUA, works with UU congregations to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process. This is an opportunity for the congregation to reflect on issues related to identity. More details on page 7.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 10 12:45 to 1:45 pm

Come to the FRAC meeting on October 14 at 7:00 pm at Sunnyhill to help decide if we should continue the Flower Sale and Pancake Breakfast. All options will be explored. Any questions, please email Amy Kent, FRAC Chair. Contact information is in the Sunnyhill directory.

Celebrate!

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Smithton is celebrating their 150th anniversary. Join the congregation on one or both days: Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17. Speakers, banquet, Soulful Sundown service, and concert. Questions please call 724-872-5056 or email uucfsmithton@gmail.com.

Back by Popular Demand . . . It's The Awesome October Raffle Basket Collection



Please bring a delightful, unusual, whimsical or eminently useful item to Sunnyhill with you on a Sunday in October. We are once again collecting your donations which we will assemble into tempting raffle baskets for Sunnyhill-to-Go. You'll find a collection hamper in the dining room which we will check on a regular basis.

You may purchase a new item or donate a really great one that's almost new. Bring us one gift, several, or team up with friends to create a whole basket. The raffle basket



themes will be suggested by your donations. Possible themes may be --

- The Man Cave, It's My Party, or Hit the Road
- The Gourmet Pantry, Get it Together, or Just Vegging Out
- Jumpin' Java, Lucky Kid, or Feathered Friends



The best donations are things you'd like to win yourself!

If you have a large basket you can part with, we may be able to use that as well. Please direct questions to Dorothy Burns. Contact information is in the Sunnyhill directory.

STAY INVOLVED: OCTOBER CALENDAR

(VIEW THE CALENDAR LIVE AND UP-TO-THE-MINUTE AT <http://sunnyhill.org/calendar/calendar.html>)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am - Sun Svc 11:30am - Sun 7pm - Spiritwa	27 7pm - Commun	28 9:30am - Morn 1:15pm - Ch 7pm - Hidden	29 7pm - Mob-Up	30	1 7:30pm - First	2 9am - set-up 7pm - Soup
3 Soup Cook-Off 9am - Sun Svc 11:30am - Sun 1pm - Young	4	5 9:30am - Morn	6	7	8 7:30pm - Vege	9 3pm - Memoria 4pm - set-up @ 7pm - Svc Auc 8pm - offsite-
10 9am - Sun Svc 11:30am - Sun 12:45pm - Con	11 7pm - Board	12 9:30am - Morn 1:15pm - Ch 7pm - Hidden	13 7:30pm - Adult	14	15 7pm - Spiritwa	16 9am - Baking 7pm - Svc Auc
17 9am - Sun Svc 11:30am - Sun 12:30pm - Spe 12:45pm - Sun 1pm - Young 7:30pm - Quak	18 7:30pm - Book	19 9:30am - Morn 7:15pm - Mem	20	21	22	23
24 9am - Sun Svc 11:30am - Sun 12:30pm - Spe	25	26 9:30am - Morn 1:15pm - Ch 7pm - Hidden	27 7pm - Commun	28	29	30 9am - set-up @ 7pm - Gourmet
31 9am - offsite- 9am - Sun Svc 11:30am - Sun 12:30pm - Spe 7pm - Spiritwa	1	2 9:30am - Morn 7pm - Carina	3	4	5 7:30pm - First	6 9am - Beyond 8pm - offsite-

OCTOBER GREET-N-EAT SHEET

Date	9 am Ushers	9 am Coffee Hosts	9 am RE Snack
3-Oct	Julie Gouirand-Vey & Pat Wurster	Debbie Baird & Margaret Hamstead	Chothani
10-Oct	Mary Jo Sonntag & Jean McQuillin	Sandy Shannon & Judy Kelly	Angela Dipner
17-Oct	Tanya & Chetan Chothani	Malia & Clint Bennett	Kathie Maloney
24-Oct	Joe Barker & Margaret Lindquist	Gary VanGelder & Greet Garczynski	Malia Bennett
31-Oct	Members of Spiritways	Members of Spiritways	Harvest Festival
Date	11:30 am Ushers	11:30 am Coffee Hosts	11:30 am RE Snack
3-Oct	John Fehr & Joyce Salls	Jeanette Patsakis & Stephanie Romero	Romero
10-Oct	Tim Zeddies & Harriet Maher	Sue & Jeff Mazur	Wendy Graham
17-Oct	Cathryn & Stuart Coblin	Pat & Peter Troell	Vivian Aro
24-Oct	Barbara & Sanat Shah	Katy & John Vernacchia	Louise Machinist
31-Oct	Members of Spiritways	Members of Spiritways	Harvest Fest

Date	LIFECRAFT OPPORTUNITIES IN OCTOBER				
3-Oct	Crewel Intentions	Meditation	Adult Choir	Science & Spirituality	
10-Oct	Poetry	Meditation	Adult Choir	Current Events	
17-Oct	Speed Pledging	Meditation	Adult Choir	Spiritways CUUPs	Emerson Group
24-Oct	Speed Pledging	Meditation	Adult Choir	Current Events	
31-Oct	Speed Pledging	Meditation	Adult Choir	Harvest Festival	

FROM THE EDITOR'S LAPTOP

I want to go to college—again. College visits with a child in high school are a terrible tease. Bigger dorm rooms, suites with kitchens, green buildings, meal plans that satisfy everyone—vegan, Kosher, carnivorous, even the gluten- and lactose-intolerant.

At my school, kids used mashed potatoes like super-glue between stacks of dinner plates. Servers steered us away from certain menu items. Grilled cheese sandwiches had to be blotted with napkins. (The food has improved according to friends who now have children in the university.) Don't get me wrong—I loved every minute of college, even the grilled cheese sandwiches. Excellent profs and education. Great friends whom I now visit regularly on Facebook.

And the physical fitness centers? Wow. Stunning. Gorgeous. Rock climbing walls. Natatoriums with screens that drop down for Friday night “dive-in movies”—inner tubes included so viewers can float and watch. Weight rooms with widescreen TVs. Smoothie bars.

Can you blame me? Who would not want to go to college again?

Finding the right schools for our girls was easy: Becky discovered Rice University, applied early decision, and that was it. As soon as Sarah was accepted into WVU's five-year BA/MA program in education, she said, “Yes.” Elizabeth saw Penn State (“I'm not going to school in the

middle of a cow field.” Sorry, PSU alum), visited two small liberal arts colleges, and then had an official tour of Pitt: it was love at first sight. She's our cosmopolitan kid.

Jack wants to play baseball in college. Since September 1, he has been contacted by coaches at six schools. According to NCAA regulations, coaches cannot contact athletes until September 1 of the junior year, and then only by email. Coaches can meet athletes on campus only if the athlete initiates the campus visit. There are about a million other rules, but recruiting really begins after June 1 of the junior year.

Over the last year, we have moved Jack from “I don't care where I go as long as I play baseball” to “I know my education is my first priority, but if a school doesn't have a great baseball program, then I can't get excited about the school.”

I'm not sure we have moved Jack too far from his initial position. What he has taken to heart, however, is our repeated reminder (which we preached to the girls, too) that his college experience will be what he makes of it. He might end up with a cramped room, not-so-great food, and maybe not his first pick in baseball programs. But Jack, finally, is the only person who can make his college experience positive, exciting, fun—and even educational.

Sometimes when I come to Sunnyhill I lament the limited parking as I trudge up the street. Inside, I see small rooms and an aging building that needs repairs.

But I also see my friends—you—teaching RE, making coffee, greeting visitors. When I read *The Drummer* (I have to—I edit this darn thing!), I learn that my friends tend gardens, seek ideas, and work to make and execute plans that are for the good health of this congregation.

For Sunnyhill, our junior year has arrived and recruiting has begun: the canvass begins this month, committee chairs will change in 2011, there is a congregational meeting on the 10th. Just like Jack, we will have to consider our options and make an informed decision on what we want and what we want to do. Jack knows he might not get his first choice of a baseball program, and we know that each one of us will not get exactly what we want.

Some of us want the rock climbing wall, the smoothie bar, and a meal plan for every taste. Some of us can live without the smoothie bar.

No matter what we get, we are still UUs committed to the same seven principles. What we get out of Sunnyhill, in this year and in years to come, will be in direct proportion to what we put into Sunnyhill.

This year, let's all give Sunnyhill “the old college try.”

Take care.

—Janie

Interim Minister:
The Rev. Jay Abernathy
412-561-6277

Office Hrs: M to Th, 9:30am to noon
Please phone first or make appointment.

Director of Religious Education:
Cheryl Kelley

412-561-6277
Office Hrs: M, W, 9:00 to noon
and by appointment

Congregational Administrator:
Elizabeth Mortimer

412-561-6277
Office Hrs: M, W, Th, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
and by appointment

Music Director:
Carol Karl

Please see Sunnyhill directory for home
phone and email

Contact Sunnyhill:
412-561-6277 or
admin@sunnyhill.org

On the Web:
www.sunnyhill.org
Board Blog:
<http://sunnyhillboard.blogspot.com/>

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the Administrator.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills
1240 Washington Road
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*, 1854