



# THE DRUMMER

January 2011

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

**"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." —Jimi Hendrix**

**January 2, 9:00 & 11:30 am**

***The Ceremony of Innocence is Drowned\****

**Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister**

William Butler Yeats was talking about revolution in Ireland, and I shall be talking about another revolution. Each new year is, in fact, something of a revolution—or it holds the possibility of a change of direction, a renewed commitment, a growing hope. (\* See page 14 for the complete text of "The Second Coming.")

**January 23, 9:00 & 11:30 am**

***Sacred Spaces***

**Presented by Dan Rothschild & Ken Doyno**

The relationship between sacred spaces and their congregations has been a source of exploration throughout history. The architects will present case studies of their work to show how they use their unique Design Sketchbook Process to work with congregations in order to maximize the experiential qualities of their sacred spaces. They will also discuss how sacred writings can have strong influences in their designs.



**January 9, 9:00 & 11:30 am**

***The Wounded Optimist***

**Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister**

I am an optimist, but I am not naïve or romantic in my optimism, for I have seen the pain of too many people to think that justice and peace are easy goals.

**January 30, 9:00 & 11:30 am**

***Which Face In the Mirror?***

**Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister**

This is a sermon about tolerance, but with the unique perspective of Dr. Amartya Sen, a mathematician-economist turned philosopher and moralist. He suggests that we should think about pluralism by considering how many different facets our own personality contains. Our children will be present for the service's beginning.



**January 16, 9:00 & 11:30 am**

***Why Aren't The Redbirds Singing***

**Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister**

This celebration of the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will feature hymns from the civil rights struggle, a reading of part of the "I Have a Dream" speech, and a sermon. Our children will join us for a time.



**Newcomer Orientation Class**

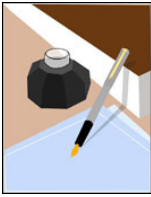
**Sunday, January 30**

**UUCSH's Rosetta Stone**

If you are a relative newcomer to UUCSH, mark Sunday, Jan. 30, 10 am to noon on your calendar. That is the date of the upcoming newcomer orientation class, which will be held at Sunnyhill, room 15. The class is a newcomer's chance to learn, in one fell swoop, about UUism, UUCSH history, church governance and finances, what to do with a used coffee cup on Sunday morning, and more. Use the class to get to know Rev. Jay Abernathy, see who else is new, find out how to connect with activities, and ask questions. Membership Committee members help teach the class, but class attendance does not obligate an attendee to becoming a member. (Class completion is, however, a prerequisite to membership.) Join the Jan. 30 session to translate your impressions and curiosity into information and connections. Contact Toni Murray to reserve a place or learn more.

### 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

Cleaning the ice that accumulates in our Cairn Terrier's footpads can be a messy business on a cold, snowy day. We are walking along at his fast pace (thankfully he has short legs!) when suddenly he is hopping along on one foot. As soon as I notice I turn and remove a glove, rub the built-up snow (and salt makes it worse) until his footpad is clean and dry. Of course, now my hand is wet and cold. There is a lesson here.

A chore on a somewhat more anxiety-producing level is creating a church budget. Your Board passed a budget at their past meeting, but I do not think it left anyone happy. This is truly unfortunate. Money should not have such power over the church. This congregation's inability to pay for what it expects from staff and church organization is embarrassing. The core members of the church are few; everyone else is paying as if

they came once a month, except for the summer. The reality is harsh: by all reasonable measures, the congregation is fully one-fourth below average UU levels of giving—which are among the lowest of all religious movements in the country.

There is nothing like a budget to remind a poor minister that he is not yet working in Paradise, but is rather trying to build some semblance of paradise on earth. For too many UUs in the greater Pittsburgh area, this is seen as a position to be taken by votes, not an action to be taken by bodies being present and funds being donated.

Thankfully, it is Christmas, and the spirit of the season conquers the feelings I felt for the Board. They are such hard-working volunteers, and they stepped up so nobly during the recent Stewardship campaign. They need your support. Meanwhile, I turn

back to planning the Christmas Eve service. For me, this has always involved as many people as possible, and being so new, I am finding that clumsy. Blissfully, Louise Machinist has been helping Carol Karl and I with the music.

The afternoon service, now at 4:00 p.m. to more easily accommodate parents and young children, will feature two popular Christmas songs along with a tale from the minister about the Unitarian origins of one of them. It is a bit shorter service than the 7:00 p.m. service. Both have five to six carols, six additional musical pieces, four to five lessons, and other parts for readers. We will end in the traditional UUCSH way with candles and "Silent Night."

—Jay

**December 24, 4:00 & 7:00 pm**  
**Christmas Eve**  
 Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy,  
 Interim Minister  
 4:00 service—family focus; 7:00 service—  
 meditative focus.

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**December 26, 10:30 am**  
**It is YOUR Choice**  
 Led by Julie Ann Sullivan  
 This service is an opportunity to choose what we want to "remove" from our lives and what we choose to move towards.

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**Staff Office Hours**  
**during the December Holidays**  
 Staff office hours will be limited Dec. 23 to Jan. 2. Please phone ahead if you would like to meet with Jay, Cheryl, or Elizabeth.



## UPDATE:

# MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Committee's activities during December included fine-tuning our interview questions and process, review of the UUA website for interested (and interesting!) candidates, exchange of packets, review of candidates submissions, and phone interviews.

While the number of responses from interested candidates is lower than expected, we have reason to

anticipate additional candidates will be presented in January.

Thank you for your faith in us as the search for the best fit for our wonderful church continues!

Your friendly MSC—

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



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# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Cheryl Kelley, Director of Religious Education

What a great holiday pageant! Thanks to Tim Zeddies for directing, Katie Keane for assisting Tim, and Carol Karl for all her help and providing the musical accompaniment. A big round of applause to all children and adults who made this beautiful pageant successful. I hope all of you had a chance to see the “Winter Solstice” and were moved by the deep and rich content.

Although winter seems a perfect time to rest and reflect, it is also a time of action for religious education (RE). Many of our programs take months to plan, and January is one of those planning and learning months. Here’s the curriculum by grade:

- 9:00 a.m., pre-2nd grade—UU “Heroes”
- 11:30 a.m., pre-2nd grade—UU and other church traditions with “Around the Church, Around the World”
- 9:00 a.m., 3rd-5th grade and 11:30 a.m., 3rd to 8th grade—discovering what their faith means to them, with “Toolbox of Faith”
- 9:00 a.m., 6th-8th grade—learning about other religions with “Neighboring Faiths”
- Youth Group—a weekly look at current events to learn how religion and politics are connected with “Truth and Meaning”

In January our Coming of Age (COA) students will meet and discuss their beliefs and experiences. The COA kids have been visiting local churches with their mentors. After visiting, they write down their thoughts and share these with me at our monthly COA meetings.

RE Sunday is February 14, and the RE classes will share with the congregation some of what they are learning. I hope you attend and see the wonderful children of this church. Because of the location of RE classrooms, many of you don’t see or hear the children, and this is a perfect opportunity to share special time with them. The Youth Group is busy now planning our annual Italian Dinner scheduled for February 26. They always make this event look easy, but it takes weeks of planning and preparation to make it successful.

While you’re curled up with a good book and hoping that you don’t have to shovel today, remember that we here at Sunnyhill in the RE program are busy planning and preparing. We are also having a lot of fun socializing, teaching, and sharing!

If you are interested in either teaching or sharing a special experience with the kids, please let me know. My email

address is [dre@sunnyhill.org](mailto:dre@sunnyhill.org). Session three will run March 6 through May 22. I need a teacher for the 9:00 a.m. 3rd-5th grade class and teachers for the 11:30 a.m. pre-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class and the 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade class. You do not have to have teaching experience, just the desire to work with the children and make learning fun. The curriculum is provided for you. We do ask that you have attended Sunnyhill for a minimum of six months or have a UU background.

I’d like to close with this Buddhist prayer, adapted by Susan Freudenthal:

*May I be safe  
May I be happy  
May I live in peace*

*May you be safe  
May you be happy  
May you be well  
May you live in peace*

In peace,

—Cheryl

## JANUARY DESIGNATED OFFERING: THE ADDIS ABABA FISTULA HOSPITAL “MATERNAL MORTALITY—ONE WOMAN A MINUTE”

“Maternal mortality—one woman a minute.” —from *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

In addition to the focus on beautiful mother-child images during the Christmas season, let’s also consider the ugly medical risks that come with maternity.

Maternal mortality has many causes, including obstetric fistula. Until reading *Half the Sky*, I had never heard of obstetric fistula; perhaps I really didn’t want to know about that hideous condition or the unbelievably cruel social ostracism suffered by young fistula victims in many third world countries: many are shunned, stigmatized, banished, and

directly or indirectly killed because of the condition they suffer.

Fistula is internal damage/rupture caused by obstructed labor, lack of medical care during childbirth and/or the physical immaturity of young adolescent mothers. Not a topic typically discussed in church, obstetric fistula is a social and medical justice issue that, in my opinion, calls for a designated offering.

The following is from the hospital website: “An oasis of healing, The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital was founded in 1974 by obstetrician-gynecologists Drs. Catherine and Reginald Hamlin. The Hospital has restored the lives and hopes of more than 32,000 women who would have

otherwise perished or suffered life-long complications brought on by childbirth injuries, specifically obstetric fistula. Today, the hospital provides free fistula repair surgery to approximately 2,220 women every year and cares for 35 long-term patients. Located in Ethiopia, it is considered the preeminent hospital dedicated exclusively to victims of obstetric fistula, the world center for fistula treatment, long-term care, and prevention.”

The hospital received a 4-star (highest) rating by Charity Navigator (check it out on [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org)).

—Louise Machinist,  
for the Social Action Committee

## CHIPS FROM THE BOARD

The focus of the December Board meeting was aimed at presenting a balanced budget to the congregation.

Our conversation was a difficult one, since we have a shortfall of about \$15,000 from our canvass goal, with 50 non-pledging units as of mid-December. (See the canvass report on page 5 of *The Drummer*.)

In order to present a balanced budget to you, we faced hard choices. In the end, we decided that in the best interests of the congregation we must support the settled minister search and fund the RE program as best we can. We believe these programs—along with the Building Feasibility work—will strengthen our congregation and our collective financial commitment to it in the long run, allowing us to move forward. Clearly, with no monies allocated to capital expenses, we are still vulnerable financially.

By the time you read this, a 2011 budget will have been adopted (I hope), but our work to meet our obligations and gain better financial foot-

ing continues.

The Board also decided that the attendance numbers *do* add up, and we'll stick with two services each Sunday to avoid over-crowding and parking pain. But—depending on what the RE Committee decides—it is possible that sometime in 2011 there will be one, not two, services offering religious education for children

We're also working on a solution to manage Sunday morning office support. Feel free to give your suggestions about this issue to Martha Sweeney or another Board Member.

Other impending Board tasks are reorganizing and revising existing policies; reworking the financial structure and developing new, related policies; launching a long range planning process; and filling the vacancies on our infrastructure committees—Finance, Building & Grounds, Social Justice, Adult Programming and more.

The UUCSH also needs to find a new treasurer, since Charlie Cook will be leaving the position this spring.

A special Board thanks goes to so many of you for transforming the UUCSH building for the Make-A-Wish house tour on December 11, and especially to Dorothy Burns, Elizabeth Mortimer, and Toni Murray for recognizing the possibilities and making them happen!

Next Board Meeting: January 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pumpkin Room.

—Margaret Hamstead  
President,  
Sunnyhill Board of Trustees

*Note: Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. The agenda provides for Public Comment from 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. Request the Board agenda and minutes from Elizabeth Mortimer, Administrator, in person or online ([admin@sunnyhill.org](mailto:admin@sunnyhill.org)) or from Dorothy Burns, Secretary ([board@sunnyhill.org](mailto:board@sunnyhill.org)).*

## NOVEMBER 2010 TREASURER'S REPORT

### SUMMARY

As of the end of November, our pledge income remained below budget at about \$6,600 below budget for the year to date. This is an improvement from the negative \$9,500 at the end of October. The total income was about \$3,300 negative largely due to our successful fund raising efforts this year. Most recently, Sunnyhill-to-Go earned \$6,300, which was better than last year.

Most expense categories are close to budget and the total expenses were about equal to budget. As of November, our net cash flow was negative \$3,324 year to date. This is also a significant improvement—due largely to improved pledge income and income from Sunnyhill-To-Go—over a negative \$12,000 at the end of October.

### DIRECTED INCOME AND EXPENSES

The November Partner Church dedicated offering was \$699. Roslyn Maholland will be forwarding these funds along with any additional donations received before December 10 to the congregation in Kopec, Romania. With this offering, our total 2010 dedicated offerings have totaled an impressive \$10,165.

### BALANCE SHEET

Our Total Equity improved somewhat to about \$30,000, but our declining assets indicated by our low total equity are a long term financial concern. A policy needs to be established regarding the selection and use of funds should our total equity become less than current expenses. This is, of course, a situation we definitely do not want; none the less, a policy should be in place.

### OTHER ITEMS

- Building Feasibility Study Fund contains \$11,500
- There is a fund for holding the \$50 refundable key deposits as they are made.
- General Memorial Fund contains \$1,050 memorial donations made without specific requests.
- There are three religious education funds that contain a total of \$3,987. These funds should be reviewed as to purpose and possible consolidation.

—Charlie Cook  
Treasurer

# 2011 CANVASS REPORT TO THE SUNNYHILL CONGREGATION

Preparations for the 2011 canvass began during the summer of 2010 with the identification of a theme ("Speed Pledging"), a canvass goal (\$225,000), the development of materials for the pledge packet, and recruitment of volunteers.

The list of potential pledge units (consisting of members, friends, or a combination of the two) was developed from Church Windows data as well as the 2010 canvass spreadsheet. The 2011 canvass began in late October 2010 and pledges were returned in November and December.

## Canvass Results:

- Total number of pledge units (members and friends) was 183; of these, 133 made a pledge (73%) by mid-December, for a total pledged of \$210,002.
- Many people met the challenge of raising their pledges 20%.

I sincerely appreciate the hard work and dedication shown by canvass committee members Carl Bergman and Dan Nery, and the many volunteers who helped with speed pledging and follow-up phone calls. The Board also

provided tremendous support to the canvass. Thank you so much! We have some very generous supporters in our congregation. We have many people who are highly committed to Sunnyhill.

After chairing the Canvass Committee for two years, it is time for me to step down. Please consider volunteering for this important position in 2011.

—Lee Stivers Young

## Thank You for Making a Pledge of Financial Support for 2011!

Kelley Anderson & Michael Farb  
Helen Andrews  
John & Judy Armstrong<sup>2</sup>  
Vivian Aro  
Debbie Baird  
Nina Balsamo  
Sallie Beck  
Harold Behar & Gretchen Riess  
Nancy & Randy Bellamy  
Malia & Clint Bennett  
Carl & Liz Bergmann<sup>2</sup>  
Anne Brannen  
David & Bonnie Brown  
Dianna Burnett  
Chris & Dorothy Burns  
Vinny Butz  
Ralph & Lorraine Carabetta  
Jim Carter  
Shelly & Vijay Chandhok  
Chetan & Tanya Chothani  
Cathryn & Stuart Coblin  
Larry Comden  
Charlie & Pam Cook<sup>2</sup>  
Bill & Patti Cook  
Carolyn Corry  
Martha Culbreth  
Dallas Dileo  
Angela & William Dipner  
David Tammy Dunn  
Janie Elliott  
Jude Ernest  
Susan Fidelman  
Jean Furlan  
Julie Gourirand-Vey  
Werner & Anita Hager  
Margaret Hamstead<sup>3</sup>  
Julie & Rick Harris  
Dean Hazelton  
Bob & Beth Hedin  
John & Carrilee Hemington  
Michael & Mary Jo Hennessy  
Helen Holland  
Eve Holloway  
Sharon Hovis<sup>2</sup>  
Alan James  
Carol Jaworski<sup>4</sup>  
Barb Johnson  
Carl Johnson & Deborah Landen  
Pamela Jones  
Carol Karl<sup>3</sup>  
Donna Kaufmann

Katie Keane  
Cheryl & John Kelley  
Robert & Judy Kelly  
Chuck Kenrick  
Bruce & Amy Kent  
Jenny Lee Kochhar  
Peter Konke & Denise Obernauer-Kohnke<sup>1</sup>  
B.K. Kosmach  
Paul & Priscilla Laughlin  
Marina Nielsen Lauver  
Bob & Jeanetta Lee  
Noel & Mike Lesniak  
Margaret Lindquist  
John & Betty Luff  
Louise Machinist<sup>3</sup>  
Mike Madison & Susan Marquesen  
Harriet Maher  
Roslyn Maholland  
Jennifer & Scott Manley  
Jeff & Sue Mazur  
Dennis & Barbara McCracken  
Lisa McCracken  
Jodi McLaughlin & James Straub  
Sibyl & Paul McNulty<sup>4</sup>  
Lila & Jim McNulty  
Jean McQuillin  
Nanette Miller  
Mark & Elizabeth Mortimer  
Toni Murray  
Pat Murray  
Kimball Nedved  
Dan & Sheila Nery  
Ann Osborn  
Will Page & Franziska Lang  
Jeanette Patsakis  
Charles & Kathryn Pearce  
Lisa Pendergast  
Raymond Perr & Kathleen Broda  
Carl & Uneva Pierce  
Ann & Brian Price  
Jay & Geneva Pullen  
Frank Quinn  
Mark Rauterkus & Catherine Palmer  
Robert & Nancy Reed  
Doug & Andrea Reichenfeld  
Susan Richmond  
Burton Roberts  
Guillermo & Stephanie Maietta Romero  
Diane Rusch<sup>1</sup>  
Tom & Elizabeth Scanlon  
Barbara & Sanat Shah

Lisa Smith  
Leslie Smith  
Scott Smith & Peg Hart<sup>1</sup>  
Ron Smutny<sup>1</sup>  
Gloria Snyder<sup>3</sup>  
Robert Souders  
Dan Story & Erin Russell-Story  
Tom Strauman  
Julie Ann Sullivan  
Peter & Dara Swartwout  
Dennis & Martha Sweeney  
Mary Beth Thakar  
Robert Trivus & Heather Newman-Trivus<sup>2</sup>  
Peter & Pat Troell  
Gary van Gelder  
Ellen Vegh & Marty Gaynor  
John & Katy Vernacchnia  
Jeff & Cori Viperman  
Gerry Walsh & Carol Saalbach  
Wendy Weaver-Graham & Matt Graham  
Suzie Wilhelm  
George & Patty Williams<sup>3</sup>  
Robert & Shirley Williams<sup>1</sup>  
Patricia Wurster<sup>1</sup>  
George Yeckel & Butch Ford<sup>3</sup>  
Lee Young<sup>2</sup>  
Raymond Yourd  
Sarah Yourd  
Tim & Erin Zeddies  
Maurice & Catherine Zeldman  
Karen Zoller

1. Fair Share Pledge, Supporter
2. Fair Share Pledge, Sustainer
3. Fair Share Pledge, Visionary
4. Fair Share Pledge, Full Tithe

### Update Your Contact Information

If your contact information changes, please notify the church administrator at [admin@sunnyhill.org](mailto:admin@sunnyhill.org) or 412-561-6277. The administrator updates addresses once monthly.

# UPDATE: BUILDING FEASIBILITY STUDY

## Goal Workshop on November 20

Rothschild Doyno Collaborative (RDC) facilitated a Goals Workshop for 53 members and friends. Ken Doyno, Dan Rothschild, and Melanie Buzgan Dower presented a dozen sketchbook pages illustrating the factors of the Sunnyhill site and a timeline of our congregational history.

The architects then asked the participants “What do you like about Sunnyhill’s physical space? What don’t you like? What do you wish for in your church facility?” After breaking into five small discussion groups, the participants reconvened and presented all comments to the group as RDC documented the ideas.

## Next Steps

The Building Feasibility Committee will meet with RDC to review the goals gathered

at the November workshop and the architects’ work in progress.

Members and friends will be invited to the Strategies Workshop (late January or early February) to review RDC’s site and building design strategies and relationship to program, budget, and other issues.

## Fundraising

The week in Key West (donated by Denise Obenauer-Kohnke and Peter Kohnke) was won by Chuck Kenrick for a bid of \$850. The funds for the Building Feasibility Study are now \$12,400 (including Chuck’s \$850). Huge thanks to Denise and Peter.

Dave Brown donated two Steeler tickets and a parking pass to be sold to benefit the Feasibility Study. Giant thank

you to Dave and Bonnie.

We are getting close to our goal of \$15,000 for the Feasibility Study and would greatly appreciate additional donations. Note “Building Feasibility Study” on your check.

## Communications

We hope you saw the historical documents of the Sunnyhill mansion posted in the dining room (from John Conti who wrote the article in the Mt. Lebanon Magazine).

Look for the RDC sketchbook pages illustrating their analysis of the Sunnyhill site and the story of the UUCSH which will be posted in the dining room in January.

—Peg Hart

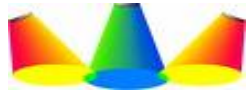
As the photos below prove, Sunnyhillers look good from every angle—especially when leading the Goals Workshops. Workshop leaders, clockwise from right: Ken Doyno of RDC, Dennis Sweeney, Mike Hennessy, and Paul Laughlin.



# SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH

## Ron To Share His Expertise In Workshop on Stewardship

Ron Smutny has been asked to be a panelist at a special Ohio-Meadville District workshop on stewardship. The workshop will be held in Akron on Saturday, January 29. Ron was invited to be a panelist because he is a professional fund raiser and sits on the Resource Development Committee of the OMD, led by Rev. Joan Van Becelaere. At the workshop, Ron and other panelists will share some insights on such topics as fund raising, their individual congregations experiences with fund raising, and advice on motivating people to give.



## The Stewardship Spotlight Shines on . . .

- ☺ Carl Bergmann and Scott Smith—they completed the glazing and painting of the storm damaged dormer window and re-hung it.
- ☺ Dorothy Burns, Jeanette Patsakis, Cori Vipperman, Beth Hedin, Donna Kaufman, Gary VanGelder, Tom Strauman, Julie Ann Sullivan, Carol Karl, Louise Machinist, Patty Williams, Cheryl Kelley, Ros Maholland, Vivian Aro—with all the tree-trimming and decorating that took place in December, where to begin in thanking all the people who helped!
- ☺ Toni Murray, Carrilee Hemington, Carol Jaworski, and Barb McCracken—these Sunnyhill Tour Guides helped make our role in the house tour a success!

## Partner Church

### Designated Offering Report

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Designated Offering for our Partner Church. I was thrilled to learn from Charlie that \$699 was collected this year. The funds will have been successfully wired and gifts distributed by the time this is read in the January 2011 *Drummer*. (Additional report to follow pending dates/deadlines.)

—Roslyn Maholland

## Update: Washington Women's Shelter Holiday Collection

I want to thank all who were able to help with this important outreach to our community. The Washington Women's Shelter is unique because it not only provides food, clothing, shelter, childcare, and job training, but also—unlike other shelters—protects women who have received a PFA (Protection From Abuse) order from a court. Many people are unaware that the shelter provides a safe place for women and children from all economic circumstances. There are women whom we would consider privileged who need the shelter's services.

The holiday collection from Sunnyhill allows the mothers to wrap the gifts for their children so they can take ownership of the process. So that moms are surprised on Christmas, shelter volunteers wrap the gifts for the moms. Each year, when I drop off the donations, I am moved by the gratitude of the women. They always extend a big hug and a "Thank you!" to me when my car arrives packed with gifts from Sunnyhill. It is a personal joy for me to be able to say that the gifts come from Sunnyhill!

A special thanks to Elizabeth Mortimer for her continued compassionate support as we offer this opportunity to give back to our community to the congregation and to Cheryl Kelley for allowing the mitten tree donations to go to the shelter. And a big thanks to Dorothy Burns, Carolyn Corry, and Sheila Nery for being my helpers: when I could not be at both services to collect gifts, these ladies willingly helped after the second service!

If you have questions about the shelter, please don't hesitate to contact me. My personal contact information is in the Sunnyhill directory.

—Lisa Pendergast

## Downtowners' Lunch Group

We meet the **4th Thursday** of each month. The January lunch is Thursday, January 27. 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), please contact me by Tuesday, January 25.

—Lorraine Carabetta

## From the Caring Committee

Ros Maholland and Bud Murock joyfully report the safe arrival of grandbabies #2 and #3, born on November 30 in Cairo, Egypt. Martha Marie and Benjamin Ramadan Hussein weighed in at about 5 pounds each, and they are now happily keeping their parents, Angela and Ramadan, busy and sleepless! At a recent service, Ros shared the news of the babies and said she hoped they would grow up to be peacemakers.



Betty Abernathy Arnold died December 4 of complications from a series of strokes the past year. She is the aunt of our interim minister, Jay Abernathy, and the younger sister of his father, Jay Abernathy, Sr.

## Copies of UU World

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

## 2010-11 Sunnyhill Book Group

The Book Group meets on the third Monday of each month at Sunnyhill, at 7:30. Please direct questions to Dean Hazelton.

- Jan 17, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by O. Wilde
- Feb 21, *The Gone Away World* by Nick Harkaway
- Mar 21, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- Apr 18, *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen
- May 16, *I Curse the River of Time* by Per Petterson
- Jun 20, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by H Lee

# SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH CONTINUED

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION—DESIGNATED OFFERING EARNS PULLENS A VISIT TO MOVIE SET!



In August, I presented Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) with the Sunnyhill designated offering. We collected \$420, and my family decided to take the check there in person since my Aunt Mary rented a house in Clearwater for Thanksgiving.

When we got to Clearwater, Dad called CMA and told them we had a donation. They said they were closed because a movie was being filmed there! But Ivy Carrasquillo of CMA was so moved that our church would donate to their cause, she offered us a private tour of the set!

Dad said okay and told Mom. We looked up the movie, and Mom and Dad got all excited when they saw

that Morgan Freeman was in it. Mom was most excited that Harry Connick, Jr., was a costar, and she jumped up and down in the air, yelling “AAAAAHH! Maybe he’ll be there!” Dad would have loved to see Ashley Judd, who is also starring in it.

Well, we didn’t meet Morgan Freeman. Or Harry Connick, Jr. Or Miss Judd. There was no filming the week we were there. But we did get a tour of the set. Everything was so different than it was when I was at CMA for Trainer for a Day. They had re-painted the logo on front of the building to say Clearwater Marine *Hospital*, which is what it will be called in the film.

Ivy told us how the aquarium didn’t look as nice before they rescued Winter the dolphin. The filmmakers wanted it to look as much like it used to as possible, which was sort of run-down. They actually painted rust on the railing and replaced new doors with old wooden ones. She told us how the aquarium had just put up a new, pretty, white fence, and when she came back to work the next day, there was a rusty metal one there instead. They had even built a whole new section on the building, with two new tanks painted to look old, that the aquarium will get to keep.

The movie is called *A Dolphin’s Tale* and is due out in the fall of 2011. It is based on Winter’s story, and stars Winter herself. I can’t wait to see it!

I was glad to see Winter looking happy as usual. I’m really glad we could donate to this wonderful place.

Thank you so much!

—Claire Pullen

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Host travelers in your home to meet new friends and earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU’re Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.

For more information, visit [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) or write to [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com)



[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
43 Vermont Court  
Asheville, NC 28806  
828-281-3253

## News from the OMD

### It's Time for Winter Institute

Winter Institute is a weekend at Salt Fork State Park when folks in the district get together to share and just have fun together. This year it will be held February 18-21, 2011. Details and registration can be found at [www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/omdwi.html](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/omdwi.html)

### A New Twist on Stewardship

*Put Your Money Where Your Heart Is*: New Ideas in Stewardship will be offered as a one day workshop at the UU Church of Akron on Saturday, January 29, 2011. Come learn about new stewardship ideas and hear from a panel of fundraising experts. Registration rates for a team of 3 or more from your congregation are discounted. Registration fee includes a copy of the book *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate*, which the workshop is based on. Home hospitality and childcare available if requested by January 10. Learn more and register at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/stewardship.html>

### Healthy Congregations Training Offered

If you would like to help your congregation or the congregations in your cluster become healthier, take this opportunity to become a Healthy Congregations Workshop Facilitator. The OMD is offering Healthy Congregations Facilitator Training on March 4-6, 2011, at West Shore UU Church in Rocky River, OH. Learn more about the program at [www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/healthycongrain.html](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/healthycongrain.html)

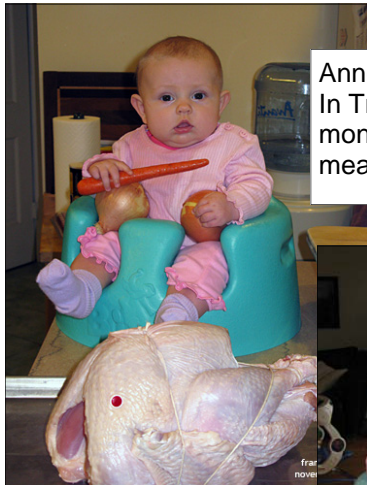
# SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH CONTINUED

## THANKSGIVING (AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WORTH CELEBRATING) SUNNYHILL STYLE



I have to giggle when people ask "What do you eat?" *Plenty!* This is me with my sister, Mary, who is also vegan, and the feast we prepared at a vacation villa in Clearwater, Florida. The vegan gluten-free pumpkin pie was to die for! We made it with Silk Nog. We prepped most of it the night before, and spent Thanksgiving morning on the beach; it was 87 degrees out! Ahhhhh! —Geneva Pullen

Elliott Kids: Elizabeth, Jack, Sarah and her baby George, Becky, and Howard (Becky's husband).



Annelee Page, CIT (Chef In Training). At age four months, already wielding a mean carrot.



"Yes, Annelee, Mom and Dad will do and say anything to get us to laugh. I urge you to resist. Take control. Feel the power." — Vivian Page, CBS (Cool Big Sis)



"Here's my Grandpa Brubaker in Maplewood, New Jersey, in 1950." —Dorothy Adams Burns



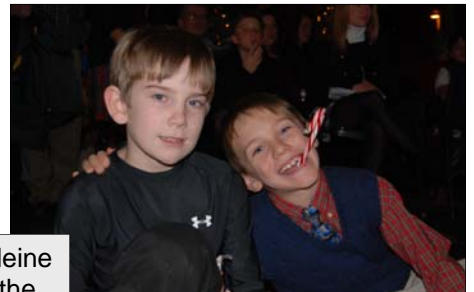
Chris, Colin, Dorothy, and Ben Burns in NYC for the holiday.



If you look very closely, behind Colin and Ben you will see a candy cane destined for the parade.

# SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH CONTINUED

## MORE GREAT SUNNYHILL PHOTOS



Claire Pullen, Elliot Pullen, Simon Mortimer, Madeleine Mortimer, and Lucinda Mortimer (front) perform at the Holiday Recital at the PPG Wintergarden.



Dips and sweets were available for hungry visitors.

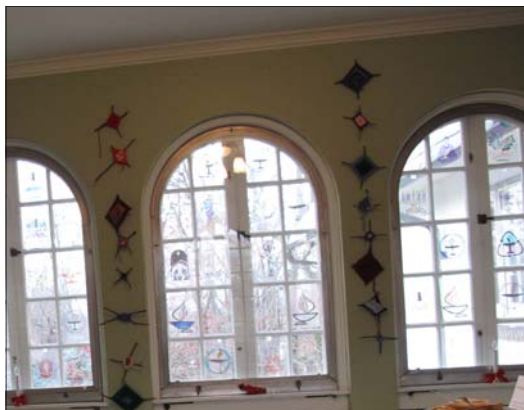


The main room was arranged to provide ample space for tour guides and groups of visitors.

**Sunnyhill put its best foot forward thanks to the energy of many volunteers who prepared for the Make-A-Wish house tour. And the tour proved something we already know: our house is a very, very, very fine house.**



Mittens, scarves, and hats—many handmade—were donated to the Women's Shelter.



RE kids made stained glass decorations and god's eyes for the dining room.

Carol Jaworski, Barb McCracken, Carrilee Hemington, and Toni Murray were Sunnyhill Tour Guides. Toni wrote a detailed script of the history of our home so guides were ready with facts and figures.

# SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH CONTINUED

## AND MORE GREAT SUNNYHILL PHOTOS



Beth Hedin decorated the Habitat tree (above) with photos of Sunnyhill volunteers in action with hammer and brush. And note that clever garland—a tape measure.



Carol explains our partner church to visitors. The runner under the tree was a gift to Sunnyhill from our partner church.



A warm and welcoming fire greeted visitors. At right is the SHIM tree, prepared by Dorothy Burns.



Greens, fruits, and berries were displayed throughout the kitchen. These arrangements and the cookies on the tree at left were prepared by Beth Hedin.

# STAY INVOLVED: JANUARY CALENDAR

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

## UUCSH Calendar

Dec 2010 (Eastern Time)

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>28</p> <p>9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room<br/>11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room<br/>12:30pm - flowers @ Main Room</p>   | <p>29</p>  | <p>30</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Meditation @<br/>10am - Staff mtg @ DRE office<br/>12pm - Mtg w/Lisa</p>               | <p>1</p>                                      | <p>2</p>                                    | <p>3</p> <p>7:30pm - First Friday Discussion</p>                               | <p>4</p> <p>8pm - offsite-8@8 dinner</p>   |
| <p>5</p> <p>9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room<br/>11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room<br/>1pm - Young Adults @ Study</p>   | <p>6</p> <p>5pm - Decorating @ Rm 15<br/>7pm - Ch Circle @ Study</p>         | <p>7</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Meditation @<br/>10am - Staff mtg @ DRE office</p>                                      | <p>8</p> <p>7:30pm - Adult Enrichment Mtg</p> | <p>9</p> <p>11am - decorate @ main room</p> | <p>10</p> <p>5pm - decorating @ main room<br/>7:30pm - Vegetarian Dinner @</p> | <p>11</p> <p>8am - House Tour @ entire</p> |
| <p>12</p> <p>9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room<br/>11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room</p>   | <p>13</p> <p>7pm - Board Meeting @ Rm 15</p>                                 | <p>14</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Meditation @<br/>10am - Staff mtg @ DRE office<br/>11:15pm - Ch Circle-Mara L @ Rm</p> | <p>15</p>                                     | <p>16</p>                                   | <p>17</p>  | <p>18</p>                                  |
| <p>19</p> <p>9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room<br/>10:30am - Budget Mtg @ Main<br/>1pm - Young Adults @ Study<br/>7pm - Mushroom @ Basement<br/>7pm - Spiritways @ Main Room<br/>7:30pm - Quaker Worship @</p> | <p>20</p> <p>7pm - Ch Circle @ Study<br/>7:30pm - Book Group @ Rm 15</p>     | <p>21</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Meditation @<br/>10am - Staff mtg @ DRE office<br/>7:15pm - Membership Comm Mtg</p>    | <p>22</p>                                     | <p>23</p>                                   | <p>24</p>  | <p>25</p>                                  |
| <p>26</p> <p>9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room<br/>11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room</p>   | <p>27</p> <p>9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room<br/>11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room</p> | <p>28</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Meditation @<br/>10am - Staff mtg @ DRE office<br/>11:15pm - Ch Circle-Mara L @ Rm</p> | <p>29</p>                                     | <p>30</p>                                   | <p>31</p> <p>8pm - offsite-8@8 dinner</p>                                      | <p>1</p>                                   |

# JANUARY GREET-N-EAT SHEET

| Date      | 9 a.m. Ushers                  | 9 a.m. Coffee Hosts            | 9 a.m. RE Snack     |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/2/2011  | Mary Jo & Michael Hennessy     | Carol Jaworski & Donna Kaufman | Hager               |
| 1/9/2011  | Shirley & Robert Williams      | Jim Carter & Marina Lauver     | Mortimer            |
| 1/16/2011 | Dara & Peter Swartwout         | Dara & Peter Swartwout         | Swartwout           |
| 1/23/2011 | Frank Quinn & Helen Andrews    | Vijay & Shelly Chandhok        | Carter              |
| 1/30/2011 | Patti & Bill Cook              | Bill & Patti Cook              | Pendergast          |
| Date      | 11:30 a.m. Ushers              | 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hosts        | 11:30 a.m. RE Snack |
| 1/2/2011  | Ron Smutny & Gloria Snyder     | Carolyn Corry & Debbie Romano  | Dunn                |
| 1/9/2011  | Michael Farb & Kelley Anderson | Michael Farb & Kelley Anderson | Farb/Anderson       |
| 1/16/2011 | Vinny Butz & Sue Fedelman      | Lee Stivers Young & Pat Murray | Lee Stivers Young   |
| 1/23/2011 | Nanette Miller & Julie Harris  | Matt & Wendy Weaver-Graham     | Graham              |
| 1/30/2011 | George Yeckel & Butch Ford     | Gloria Snyder & Vivian Aro     | Greet Garczynski    |

## From the Editor's Laptop

When I was a senior in college, I had two classes with the poet Mary Oliver. After I joined Sunnyhill, I learned that Mary is a UU. I knew nothing about Unitarian Universalism when I was in college. One of the six girls in my suite was a UU, but she sealed her door with masking tape to keep out the smell of baby powder (allergy), told me I had to keep our communal gerbil in my room (allergy), and dated a boy who drop-kicked his Hewlett-Packard calculator down our hallway. Had I had any curiosity about UUism, it was dwarfed by the drama only six girls living together can generate.

Now I am connected to this woman through LinkedIn. In an early email exchange, I told her that I could have handled our differences better when we were freshmen in college. She responded that she knew she had been, at times, difficult to live with.

I remain connected to Mary Oliver not through LinkedIn or Facebook or Twitter but by reading her poetry. When I do, I recall a discussion she had with my class about the audience for her poems: *who*—an important thing to think about for a writer.

This class of eager college juniors and seniors thought that we—along with the rest of the literary world of scholars, university press editors, and those who read *The New Yorker*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, and *The Paris Review*—were Mary's audi-

ence. We thought she wrote for us.

Mary smiled her wide, engaging smile and told us that when she wrote, she wrote for the woman on the bus. She's tired. Her feet are swollen. She's on a hot, crowded bus and faces a long ride home. It is this woman, Mary told us, that she wrote for. Not once did Mary tell us that she wrote for editors or college students.

Mary was talking about accessibility. She wanted any one to be able to read and respond to her poems: smile, cry, be soothed, imagine. She is not a poet who writes poems for other poets. And, as our teacher, she encouraged us not to write for writers. (If you have ever struggled with Joyce's *Ulysses* or *Finnegan's Wake*, raise your hand.)

Mary's poems have plenty of meaty stuff for the scholars and editors: her bag of poetic techniques is deep. Her triumph, it seems to me, is that her poems are accessible to people at many levels.

Unitarian Universalism and Sunnyhill are for me like one of Mary's poems. When I am tired—in my bones, in my heart—I can open Sunnyhill like a book of poems, and I feel reassured and hopeful, refreshed and connected.

Last week, for example, I stopped at Sunnyhill to drop off egg cartons, and Donna Kaufman pulled her car in next to mine. To meet a friend unexpectedly—what a treat! We talked about the house tour, the decorated trees, and the need to

start planning for Sunnyhill-To-Go 2011 earlier. Another treat—Jay Abernathy stopped to say hello before he left to go home. The three of us talked about gifts for grandchildren and nieces, iPods, the Christmas Eve services, and the Heifer Project.

I had felt good when I arrived at Sunnyhill, but I felt better when I left Sunnyhill. And it wasn't even Sunday.

UUism and Sunnyhill are also accessible to me, like Mary's poems, at other levels. Sunnyhill extends to each of us opportunities to teach, to lead, to create. We can become a member of the Board, chair a committee, join a committee, teach RE or LifeCraft, manage a fundraiser, or join a Chalice Circle or the book group. And if Sunnyhill's offerings are not enough, the Ohio-Meadville District website is chock full of workshops, classes, and retreats we can attend. *UU World* reminds us monthly that we UUs collectively are a funny, smart, kind, and generous bunch of people.

In the new year as a congregation let's seek ways to show our neighbors that we are accessible. Finding us should be easy. Opening our doors even easier. If our neighbors are tired in their bones or in their hearts—or if they feel good but want to feel better—we might be just what they need.

Take care.

—Janie

| Date      | LIFECRAFT OPPORTUNITIES IN JANUARY |                |         |            |            |              |
|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1/2/2011  | Adult Choir                        |                | S&S     | Meditation | Crewel Int | Chalice Club |
| 1/9/2011  | Adult Choir                        | Current Events | Poetry  | Meditation |            | Chalice Club |
| 1/16/2011 | Adult Choir                        | Pagans         | Emerson | Meditation |            | Chalice Club |
| 1/23/2011 | Adult Choir                        | Current Events |         | Meditation |            | Chalice Club |
| 1/30/2011 | Adult Choir                        | Pathway        |         | Meditation |            | Chalice Club |

### ***The Second Coming***

Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
 The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
 Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
 Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
 The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
 The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
 The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
 Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;  
 Surely the Second Coming is at hand.  
 The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out  
 When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi  
 Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert  
 A shape with lion body and the head of a man,  
 A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,  
 Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it  
 Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.  
 The darkness drops again; but now I know  
 That twenty centuries of stony sleep  
 Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,  
 And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,  
 Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

—William Butler Yeats, 1865-1939

*“Poetry isn’t a profession, it’s a way of life. It’s an empty basket; you put your life into it and make something out of that.”*

—Mary Oliver  
*Georgia Review, p. 733 (Winter 1981)*

### ***The Swan***

Did you too see it, drifting, all night, on the black river?  
 Did you see it in the morning, rising into the silvery air -  
 An armful of white blossoms,  
 A perfect commotion of silk and linen as it leaned  
 into the bondage of its wings; a snowbank, a bank of lilies,  
 Biting the air with its black beak?  
 Did you hear it, fluting and whistling  
 A shrill dark music - like the rain pelting the trees - like a waterfall  
 Knifing down the black ledges?  
 And did you see it, finally, just under the clouds -  
 A white cross streaming across the sky, its feet  
 Like black leaves, its wings like the stretching light of the river?  
*And did you feel it, in your heart, how it pertained to everything?  
 And have you too finally figured out what beauty is for?  
 And have you changed your life?*

### ***Where Does the Dance Begin, Where Does It End?***

Don't call this world adorable, or useful, that's not it.  
 It's frisky, and a theater for more than fair winds.  
 The eyelash of lightning is neither good nor evil.  
 The struck tree burns like a pillar of gold.

But the blue rain sinks, straight to the white  
 feet of the trees  
 whose mouths open.  
 Doesn't the wind, turning in circles, invent the dance?  
 Haven't the flowers moved, slowly, across Asia, then Europe,  
 until at last, now, they shine  
 in your own yard?

Don't call this world an explanation, or even an education.

When the Sufi poet whirled, was he looking  
 outward, to the mountains so solidly there  
 in a white-capped ring, or was he looking

to the center of everything: the seed, the egg, the idea  
 that was also there,  
 beautiful as a thumb  
 curved and touching the finger, tenderly,  
 little love-ring,

as he whirled,  
 oh jug of breath,  
 in the garden of dust?

Three of my favorite Mary Oliver poems, all from her collection *Why I Wake Early* (2004). —Janie

### ***Song of the Builders***

On a summer morning  
 I sat down  
 on a hillside  
 to think about God -

a worthy pastime.  
 Near me, I saw  
 a single cricket;  
 it was moving the grains of the hillside

this way and that way.  
 How great was its energy,  
 how humble its effort.  
 Let us hope

it will always be like this,  
 each of us going on  
 in our inexplicable ways  
 building the universe.

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

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

**Director of Religious Education:**  
**Cheryl Kelley**  
412-561-6277

Office Hrs: M, W, 9:00 a.m. to noon  
and by appointment

**Congregational Administrator:**  
**Elizabeth Mortimer**  
412-561-6277

Office Hrs: M, W, Th, 9:00 a.m. to  
2:00 p.m. 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

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**"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**