



November, 2011

Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

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Remember: Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 6 At 2 a.m.

Celebrate the Marriage of Rev. Scott McNeill & Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks November 12, 4-6 p.m. (see page 4)

Thanksgiving Dinner November 19 6 p.m. (see page 4)

Join Us This Sunday!

**Worship Services 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 a.m.**

November 6

Have a Little Faith

Rev. Scott McNeill

Musician Michael Franti sings about making it through life and the hard times by having faith in one another. What does faith really mean and how can we continue to have it when the world breaks our hearts?

4 p.m.

Writing for Spiritual Growth

David Martin

November 13

Let's Play: Life Lessons from Lazer Tag and Rock, Paper, Scissors

Rev. Scott McNeill

Join Rev. Scott as he reflects on playing lazer tag with the teens and all sorts of games in life.

4 p.m.

Forum: Addictions

Caring Committee

November 20

Kind and Generous

Rev. Scott McNeill

In 1998, singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant wrote a song in which all she does is offer gratitude. Believe it or not, the song was a hit. We share our thanks in different ways, but let us be intentional about offering thanks for all the gifts we receive.

4 p.m.

Forum: Forrest Church

David Martin

November 27

History

A group will focus today's service on famous Unitarian Universalist leaders from history and how their words/works still apply to our lives as contemporary Unitarian Universalists.

5 p.m.

Vespers Service: Storytelling of Wonder & Mystery

Second Thoughts is a monthly publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha. Please send your articles and submissions to: info@secondunitarianomaha.org. Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



As I'll preach about on the first Sunday of November, this month's theme is "Faith," a truly difficult, intangible concept to wrestle with. I hope that you'll wrestle with it, too, to try and understand what faith means in your life and how you live your faith. One of the things I have grappled with over the past few months is the question in my heart of: Am I faithful?

Faithful. Do I demonstrate my faith in all (or most) of what I do? While I try to, I find that it takes great intentionality to be faithful in my words and deeds. It's an ever-evolving process that continues to remind me of my own imperfection and my own desire to be whole, to be centered in the midst of a world swirling about.

In October, a few people in the congregation and in our Association started a spiritual journey where daily we would do one practice as prescribed by the book, "100 Ways to Save Your Life." Each day, there is a short reading that centers our thoughts and then we are encouraged to do something such as, "Do something completely on the spur of the moment today, without thinking of past experiences or future consequences."

I hope that through intentional work I can become a more faithful person. A colleague of mine pointed out that we often go to doctors and dentists for checkups, but do we attend to our spiritual health in the same manner? I thought about it for a minute and realized that many of us neglect our physical health just as much!

So – as we enter the winter months, as the earth seems to slow and things draw quiet and dark, join me in pondering the question – Are we faithful? Are we full of faith in the ways we think and act and speak? Being faithful does not, necessarily, mean we have all the answers. One can still be unsure about theology, unsure about the spiritual realm, and still be centered and grounded in one's faith.

Faith – with its double meaning of both trust as well as religious identity – is internal in many ways. What we believe is crafted out of our breadth of experience. And yet none of us are wholly isolated in this world – we experience the world together, even when it feels like we are alone in a crowd full of people.

So sometimes we are required to have faith in ourselves, faith in other people, faith in the world, faith in our church. And sometimes our faith, our religious identity, can encourage us to develop those bonds, those connections, even when we might rationally believe otherwise.

Before becoming a minister, we are required to do work with a psychiatrist (yes, that should make you think – and laugh!). When I went for my "Career Assessment," I was told that I had too much faith in others, that I did not question the motives of people enough and that perhaps I was too trusting.

I wrestle with this – could I be *too* faithful? Is there such a thing, particularly in a world full of cynicism and heartache and despair? I work to find a balance between having faith and listening to experience. I invite you to take the time to look at that balance in your own life – and examine how much faith you have, how much faith you need, and how much faith you receive from others.

Even with our doubts and uncertainty about spiritual questions, may we be faithful in our lives so that we feel peace amidst the storms and we continue to shine a light of hope like a beacon in the darkening winter night.

In faith,

Rev. Scott McNeill



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Cheri Cody, Chair, Board of Trustees



I'll admit to being a little bit wonky when it comes to loving the study and understanding of church administration/operations/systems. I've sat on the floor of Soul Desires bookstore looking through the many books on church work and being enthralled with the subject matter. You're probably thinking I'm a little odd and you wouldn't be the first to mention that.

However, once you start connecting the dots between programs, relationships, sharing our views, leadership, and good coffee it starts to make more sense. I've been thinking about these things the past few weeks as I've met with various committees and discovered in more depth the talents of the volunteers in our congregation.

We recently started work on the church audit, and in our first meeting, Richard Baltaro asked intriguing questions that pushed us beyond just taking a "task approach" to the job. In the stewardship committee, Clyde Anderson, who wears so many hats in our congregation, led the group to think about a different approach where we congregants could have fun, get to know each other better and support the work of the church at the same time.

I like understanding church machinations, but I'm inspired to be involved just so I can meet and learn from the many creative and talented people who make things happen. In this short column, I only mentioned a couple of people, but there are many others who make magic for us. Behind the scenes they provide a welcoming fellowship time after the service, give us a wonderful library, maintain the building, teach lifespan education classes, sing, guide worship, and help us achieve justice in the world.

I'm looking forward to learning the magic you possess.



Share the Plate for November: Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP)

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received on November 6, 13, 20, and 27 will be given to Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP). NAP's mission is to lead the community in the fight to overcome HIV/AIDS and its stigma through education, supportive services, and advocacy.

NAP provides free, confidential, and anonymous HIV testing and counseling. To provide prevention education and to debunk misconceptions about HIV/AIDS, NAP offers a training course covering the facts about HIV/AIDS and is free to all community members and organizations.

NAP also offers case management services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Nebraska, Southwest Iowa, and Eastern Wyoming. Case managers work with clients to facilitate connections with medical and social service resources, to develop care plans, and to cultivate practical, social, and emotional support systems.

NAP's advocacy program, HIV Action Nebraska, works for the rights of all people affected by HIV/AIDS. It advocates for policy initiatives related to HIV prevention and care services for those living with HIV/AIDS, as well as helping community members understand how they can advocate in support of people living with HIV/AIDS in Nebraska.

The services of NAP are consistent with the Unitarian Universalist Principles of valuing the inherent worth and dignity of every person and promoting justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. NAP also strives to serve as a "beacon of hope" to those personally afflicted with HIV/AIDS and their families. Second Unitarian has worked with NAP for many years, supporting their annual Night of 1,000 Stars fundraiser, this year on December 3.

For more information about NAP, contact Tammy Hunter. To nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, visit the church website or contact the Social Justice Coordinating Council or Rev. Scott.



Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church Treasurer's Report Month End for September 30, 2011

Please join me in extending a special thank you to the weekly money counters of the Sunday services and Gary Emenitove, our Office Administrator, who also performs Assistant Treasurer duties related to deposit, check writing and bill paying services for our congregation!! They are all doing an awesome job!

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$42,484.58 reflects 27.10% of \$156,747.00 Total Pledged for 2011-12.

If you would like more detailed financial statements, please contact me.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	September	Year-To-Date
Income	\$12,447.82	\$45,062.23
Expenses	-\$14,630.44	-\$38,831.73
Net Over/Short	<u>\$ -2,182.62</u>	<u>\$ 6,230.50</u>

Thank you!

Treasurer
Pat Caffrey

One of the most important aspects of Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) is **leader development**. Whether you are an experienced OTOC leader, clergy, or a person who is curious about OTOC, community organizing, or simply want to learn more about best practices and skills that are beneficial in our institutions and in our community...**Saturday, November 19** provides the opportunity to envision with others how we meet the challenge of **"shaping a community that works for all"** through broad based organizing.

Second Unitarian has a rich history of justice-making! Join us for this retreat to experience first hand ways to be a beacon of hope in our congregation and in our community!

OTOC Leaders Training and Development Retreat

Saturday, November 19, 9 a.m. - Noon

(gather at 8:30 for registration, continental breakfast, conversation)

St. Leo's Church, 102nd & Blondo

This morning of reflection and learning will:

- engage a diverse group to reflect on both our faith and democratic traditions as we work towards a more just world;
- explain what is OTOC and why is it different – a challenge to community to re-organize
- learn best practices and skills to use in our institutions and in OTOC to develop leaders and create positive change

With OTOC and AMOS organizers:

Mr. Paul Turner, Mr. Joe Higgs, and Ms. Elyse Johnson

Questions or to RSVP: Pat Caffrey

Fun and Fellowship in November



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
A CELEBRATION HONORING
THE MARRIAGE OF
REV. SCOTT MCNEILL
AND
REV. SARAH GETTIE BURKS**



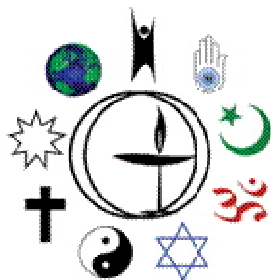
The Open House reception/dessert potluck will be on **Saturday, November 12 from 4 to 6 pm.** Everyone is invited to come by whenever you can. Please bring a dessert if you are able. Fellowship is providing the punch and coffee. Contact Janet Nichols or Betty Segell if you have questions.



**THANKSGIVING DINNER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 6 P.M.**



This is the year of many changes for our church and the traditional Thanksgiving brunch is one of them. We will continue the tradition of sharing a meal together; however, this year it will be **Saturday evening, November 19, at 6 p.m.** Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert that can serve 12. Fellowship will provide the turkey, tofurkey, and drinks. Donation will be \$4 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 per family. Come at 5 p.m. if you would like to help set up tables. This is the best feast as we have the greatest cooks! Contact Janet Nichols or Betty Segell if you have questions.



On Tuesday, November 8 and 15, from 7-8 p.m., join Rev. Scott for a two-week class on World Religions. This will be a very basic overview of a few religions and their practices and history – but hopefully it will spark some interest and answer some questions.

If you have particular queries in mind, please contact Rev. Scott before the class so he can be prepared! Also, **RSVP** with him so he can have handouts ready.

Looking to Make Friends?

ASN's Coffee Talk: A Group for Caregivers and Loved Ones of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

In coordination with the Autism Society of Nebraska, Second Unitarian is hosting small groups of people struggling through what it means to love and give care to adults with autism spectrum disorders. These short discussion groups will have coffee and treats and take place each month on first Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and third Saturdays at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Rev. Scott McNeill at minister@secondunitarianomaha.org or Wendy Hamilton, Vice President, Autism Society of Nebraska, at wendy.k.hamilton@hotmail.com.

"No More Time Cards" -- Retirees Group

Attention all retirees - or those quickly approaching that time! Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is hosting a small, monthly group to discuss issues facing those who have retired and for fellowship. This group meets at 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Second Unitarian, immediately following the weekly "Lunch @ the Church" (Tuesdays noon-1 p.m.).

Small Group Ministry

In **December**, we will start a covenant group. Covenant Groups agree (covenant) to meet regularly to discuss theological or ethical topics and are facilitated by a trained facilitator. The first Covenant Group meetings will take place at Second Unitarian and the group can decide on a location after that first meeting. The first Covenant Group will be on the first and third Sunday evenings, from 6-7:30 p.m.

Want something not listed?

This fall, Second Unitarian is launching **small groups** to help people connect to one another. Some of these groups are serious, some social, some active, and some casual. For more information, contact Rev. Scott.

Vespers Services: 5 p.m. on the Fourth Sunday

Sunday, November 27, 5 p.m.: Join us for our monthly Vespers Service! We will share in storytelling with fantastic stories. Our theme for these stories is "Wonder" or "Mystery" as we head into the cold and dark wintery seasons. Please invite friends for a warm worship experience!

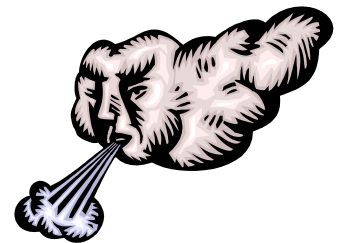
Sunday, December 25, 5 p.m.: It's Christmas Day and in place of this month's Vespers Service, we invite you to join us at worship at 5 p.m., instead of our normal Sunday morning worship.

Weather-Related Cancellations

If weather or road conditions cause services or an all-church event to be cancelled, we will notify you by:

1. Placing a message on the church phone (402-334-0537),
2. Sending a message to the weekly email list,
3. Placing a message on the church website, and
4. Placing a notification on our Facebook page.

In case of a Service cancellation, we will also contact local media with our information.





Lifespan Religious Education

By Kirsten Stiles, Religious Education Coordinator

This is the month to reflect on what you are truly thankful for! Encourage your children to recognize things they might be thankful for while sharing with them what you are thankful for as well.

Check Out What's New

Take a moment to notice the new additions in the Religious Education area downstairs. Parents please take a moment to check your child's take-home folder before you leave on Sunday. The folders are located at the bottom of the stairs just around the corner. Here you can find your child's art, activities, or projects that your child completed during Sunday School. This is also where you will receive other information regarding R.E. such as related flyers and letters home to parents.

Volunteer guides, you can find a communications board with important class information such as the guides, floats, and Nursery caregivers' schedules, as well as a contact list of other guides. Monthly and weekly themes for each classroom can also be found here. If it's happening, it's on the board. It is located on the partition between the kitchen and the downstairs worship area.

Cleaning Out the Closets?

Don't forget to think of us! We are always needing different odds and ends that you might not want or would otherwise toss out. Here are a few ideas of what those things might be:

old birthday cards or magazines; laundry soap caps; baby food jars, shoe boxes; paper towel & toilet paper rolls; nice dress-up clothes and hats; odd pieces or broken bits of jewelry; puzzles with missing pieces any size; rocks, marbles, sea shells, & sand paper or things of texture; coffee cans, glass jars, or other small and medium containers; fabric and yarn scraps

Simple everyday things you have around the house can be transformed into wonderful open-minded works of imaginative art. A masterpiece represents each child, geared by who they are and the unique individual they are.

We are still seeking interested folks who would like to get involved in the R.E. Program. child guides, assistants (floats), nursery caregivers. Contact Jodi or Kirsten at dre@secondunitarianomaha.org for information.

A labyrinth has been mowed into the church yard.

A labyrinth is a path. It is a metaphor for the path that we are all on... the sacred journey to the core of your deepest self and then back out again into the world with a greater awareness of who you are and your place here. Labyrinths have been used since ancient times as meditation and prayer tools. Enjoy our labyrinth as it changes with the seasons. See it, watch it, feel it, walk it. Invite a friend to walk it with you.

If there is interest, we will discuss plans for a more permanent labyrinth for the spring.

"Your life is a sacred journey. And it is about change, growth, discovery, movement, transformation, continuously expanding your vision of what is possible, stretching your soul, learning to see clearly and deeply, listening to your intuition, taking courageous challenges at every step along the way. You are on the path... exactly where you are meant to be right now... And from here, you can only go forward, shaping your life story into a magnificent tale of triumph, of healing of courage, of beauty, of wisdom, of power, of dignity, and of love." - Caroline Adams

Questions? Comments? Want to get involved? Contact Dan and Kelly Hanneman.





Social Justice Movie Night November 13

By Tammy Hunter



Please join the LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee for: Social Justice Movie Night Sunday, November 13

5:30 – Potluck Supper

6:00 – 2011 Documentary Film “**Stonewall Uprising**,” followed by discussion

(This event is recommended for those of high school age and up)

From PBS promotional materials: “Veteran filmmakers Kate Davis and David Heilbroner (*Adolescent Addict*, *Jockey*) explore the dramatic event that launched a worldwide rights movement. Told by those who took part, from drag queens and street hustlers to police detectives, journalists, and a former mayor of New York, and featuring a rich trove of archival footage, this AMERICAN EXPERIENCE film revisits a time when homosexual acts were illegal throughout America, and homosexuality itself was seen as a form of mental illness. Hunted and often entrapped by undercover police in their hometowns, gays from around the U.S. began fleeing to New York in search of a sanctuary. Hounded there still by an aggressive police force, they found refuge in a Mafia-run gay bar in Greenwich Village, the Stonewall Inn. When police raided Stonewall on June 28, 1969, gay men and women did something they had not done before: they fought back. As the streets of New York erupted into violent protests and street demonstrations, the collective anger announced that the gay rights movement had arrived.”

• Future Meeting Day for LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee

All are welcome to join us at our monthly committee meeting, where we connect with one another in our shared vision of a community which respects and values all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. **We will be meeting on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be Monday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m., at Second Unitarian.** Please come!



Night of 1,000 Stars on December 3

By Ferial Pearson

Please join the LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee for our annual fundraiser for the Nebraska AIDS Project at the Night of A Thousand Stars, **Saturday, December 3**. We will begin at a party at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Dan and Ferial Pearson with hearty appetizers, wine, and dessert, where you will receive tickets for the Gala.

We will go from the party to the Gala at the Magnolia Hotel from 8:00 p.m. until midnight with this year’s honorary chair, Dick Holland. Enjoy a fabulous evening there with entertainment by Dueling Duos, complimentary appetizers, and a cash bar. There will also be a silent art auction featuring works by notable and emerging Omaha artists. Suggested donation is \$25, age 21 and over only. Please check your church directory or contact Ferial for the address of the Pearson home. The Magnolia Hotel is at 1615 Howard Street in Omaha.

If you have questions, please contact Tammy Hunter or Ferial Pearson.



MINDFUL EATING RECIPE FOR NOVEMBER: PASTA WITH EGGPLANT AND ROASTED TOMATOES

by Marcia Leise



To make this recipe, lightly sauté sliced Ichiban eggplants in olive oil. Add roasted San Marzano tomatoes, garlic, a few crushed red pepper flakes, some chopped fresh rosemary, salt and pepper. Add about ½ C. vegetable broth. Simmer briefly. Add a little flour and water mixture to thicken if needed. Ladle over cooked fettuccini. Top with grated Romano cheese and a chiffonade of fresh basil.

Tomatoes have lots of lycopene, a strong antioxidant that helps prevent heart disease by inhibiting free radical damage to LDL, thereby preventing its buildup in plaques that harden and narrow arteries. The bioavailability of lycopene is actually increased by the roasting of the tomatoes.

In addition to being a source of antioxidants, which can help protect cells from damage and lower the risk of heart disease, eggplants are a good source of dietary soluble fiber. Soluble fiber helps control blood sugar levels by slowing the absorption of sugar.

The volatile oils in fresh basil have anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. Olive oil is beneficial to the cardiovascular system as it reduces oxidative stress and chronic inflammation.

Select cheese that is labeled as made with milk from cows not treated with rBST. Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone increases the occurrence of mastitis, which leads to increased need for antibiotics. In addition to the needless suffering of the animals, this practice raises concern of increases in antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The Slow Food movement encourages awareness of the origins of food and how choices affect us, and the rest of the world. May we celebrate Earth and all of the living beings that share this planet with us. May we not forget our origins and cause suffering and destruction by our indifference.

Writing for Spiritual Growth

We're now meeting at **4 p.m. the first Sunday of every month**, downstairs. We celebrate by placing our understanding of spirituality into poetry and prose, which adds clarity and passion to our lives. Join us in creating the world we desire through the written word. All members and friends of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha are welcome to participate. We welcome all sojourners who wish to share the paths on which they walk in search of enlightenment. We have no creeds, no goals, no competitive members, and no grades. Our group's motto is "Just Write." Our belief is the truth for each person will appear, when we write enough. - *David Martin*

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING IDEAS

Fair Trade for the Holidays



The fair trade products for sale during the 10:30 Sunday Coffee and Conversation hour make wonderful holiday gifts. The chocolate bars are fun stocking stuffers or gifts for co-workers, friends, or teachers. Take our coffees and teas as hostess gifts, or pot luck offerings.

Fair trade products provide farmers in South America and Africa a living wage for growing organic coffees, teas, and chocolate. Sales also benefit the UU Service Committee and our own local social justice projects.

Just in time for the holidays we now have peppermint herb tea in addition to English Breakfast, Earl Gray, green, and rooibos. Many coffee flavors in beans or ground. Chocolate bar choices: milk or very dark.

The holidays are coming!

Shop at Amazon.com and your purchases will help Second Unitarian Church

Visit the church website at secondunitarianomaha.org click on Bookstore, and then click on Shop Now @ Amazon.com.

Up to five percent of your purchase will be donated to the church. What a great and painless way to shop and help the church at the same time!

During the 2010-2011 church year we received \$233 in referral fees from Amazon.com which helped pay for our website!



It's not too early to be thinking about the Christmas holidays, so Music & Worship and Rev. Scott have an announcement.

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, we'll have a kid-friendly, multi-generational worship at 4 p.m. and a family style, more contemplative candlelight service at 7 p.m.

On Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, we'll have worship at 5 p.m., instead of our normal Sunday morning worship (9:30 & 11:30 a.m.).

We hope that this time allows people to celebrate the day however they would like and join us for worship that evening (it's better and cheaper than a movie - though likely with less animation or car chases!).



Second Circle

FOR TEENS OF SECOND UNITARIAN

By Gay Robinson Abraham



All teens are invited to join **Second Circle**, meeting between the two services at 10:30 a.m. on the **first and third Sundays** of the month, September through May. We gather in the church foyer and walk over together to our space across the street. Our time is spent focused on connection—connecting to each other, to the outer community, to the world, and to our religious and spiritual selves. We explore through discussion, ritual, media, and a variety of activities. All meetings are facilitated by two adult volunteers from our church community.

Questions to Gay Robinson Abraham.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

By Rev. Scott McNeill



Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) is a joint program for students between 7th and 12th grades. YRUU meets every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church of Omaha, 3114 Harney St.

If you have questions, please talk to Rev. Scott McNeill. All 7th through 12th graders are welcome to this teen program, as well as our Sunday morning program, Second Circle!

Fall Church Cleanup Thanks

By Clyde Anderson, Co-Chair, Building & Grounds

We had a fantastic turnout for our Fall Cleanup Day October 8. Twenty volunteers got a lot accomplished!

Our Painting Team had Rick Bell, Bill Kuhn, Roger Nicolaisen, Vicki Pratt, and Tom Rundquist. They painted the north exterior wall and the south side of the minister's office. Bill also led the effort to get the church organ to Goodwill. In addition to cleaning up the flower beds, edging the lawns, and raking leaves, the Yard Team pruned several of trees generating more than twenty bundles for yard waste collection. Team members included Kathy Bell, Mike Brockman, David & Carol Johnson, Norma Koelling, Melissa Konecky, Cindy & Michael Lynne, Don Shennum, and myself. Inside the church the aesthetics team, Pam Curtis-Smith, Tammy Hunter, Julie Kirn, and Dodie Robison, worked on changes to church decorations and installed a screen and potted plants to hide the view of the sound system hardware. Ashley Hanneman patrolled for rodents and supervised the installation of the rope to hold the front door of the church open.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped. We still have a long list of indoor tasks to accomplish, and we've scheduled a **Pre-Winter Church Work Day on the morning of Saturday, December 10.**

PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

As stated in church policies: *Respect for the privacy of members, friends, and visitors is a primary consideration. When newsletter submissions contain personal information (phone number, street address, email address, etc.), it is the author's responsibility to get the subject's permission to publish this information.* Since many of our communications are transmitted electronically and information therein may more easily be re-transmitted, it's essential that any personal information be approved for inclusion. In general, it's preferable to omit personal information, but in those cases where it's necessary (such as a location for an offsite meeting), those who submit articles should ask for permission to publish the personal information. An alternative is "Please call or email the church office for contact information." Contact the Office Administrator for more information.

Regarding published photographs: If you do not want your photo published (including in the newsletter or on the website), please inform the Office Administrator in writing. Thanks!



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Please join us in welcoming our newest members at a New Member Recognition Ceremony during our November 6 Sunday morning worship services. The Membership Committee will provide a cake during the Fellowship Hour between worship services. Please take a moment to welcome and get to know our newest members. Their pictures and bios will appear on the New Member board in the foyer in the coming months.

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
10/2	86	7	12	6
10/9	91	4	8	--
10/16	69	7	10	4
10/23	81	8	18	--

Love to make a joyful noise and have fun with a delightful group? *Please join the Second Unitarian Choir!* Our 2011-2012 year is kicking off with our fantastic music director, Donna Zebolsky. We would love to have you join us! Email Donna at music@secondunitarianomaha.org. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 and the choir performs about once a month!

One of our members, Pat Caffrey, has donated a manual wheelchair to the congregation in case anyone needs to use it for greater accessibility. If this would help you get down the hill to our basement, please let us know and we will be glad to let you use it. Thanks to Pat for her generosity! -- Rev. Scott

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to 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 or write to info@uurehome.com



www.UUreHome.com
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806
828-281-3253



Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Do you have an interest in having a more positive effect on other people's lives? Meditation Reincarnated will begin a new focus this month as we take a new look at Buddhism. We will learn how to use Buddhist philosophy in our everyday interactions with people. We'll be learning to help other people and ourselves as well. What a great way to make the world a better place! And, of course, we will practice meditation as well. Everyone is welcome. No previous meditation experience or Buddhist background is necessary. Please join us Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Macyl Boruff Memorial Library

By Gwen Eurich

Thanks to the support of our church community, the Library Committee just completed another successful book sale, making a record amount of \$706. This amount has been deposited into the Macyl Boruff Fund which was established along with the church library as a memorial to Macyl, a member who battled breast cancer for many years before succumbing to the disease on September 9, 1990.

Macyl loved books and was an active member of our Book Club. She joined Second Unitarian Church on November 14, 1982, after being inspired by a radio sermon by Betty Pingel, a former minister of our church. Money given by her family at the time of her death provided the impetus for the Memorial Library. Work on the library began in the early 1990's, and the library was formally dedicated on October 29, 1995.

The original committee for the founding of a Memorial Library came together under the leadership of Alice Blackstone. As a fundraiser for the Memorial Fund, Alice crocheted afghans and raffled them off. The library came into existence in the church office, utilizing books already on the shelves. In 1998, the library moved into its present location in the sanctuary. With money from the Macyl Boruff Fund earned largely through the annual book sale, the Library Committee has purchased the shelves currently housing our collection of books. The collection itself has been made possible by purchases financed by the Macyl Boruff Fund as well as donations of money and books from our members.

The Library Committee thanks all of you for your ongoing support to our library throughout the years. We also invite you to join us in continuing the work of the committee in the future.

Women's Alliance

By Ellen Shurson

Attention Women of First and Second Unitarian Churches! **The Women's Alliance meets Monday, November 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church.**

Our featured speaker will be Beverly Lau from the Yates Community Center, dedicated to teaching adult refugees, immigrants, and other community members skills to be successful in the Omaha community. Students are encouraged to sew tote bags, hats and mittens that are shared with their classmates and families in the OPS schools.

As a grant-funded program, the Sewing Room welcomes donations of fabric and sewing supplies, such as thread, zippers, and seam rippers. They take fabric of any kind as long as it is clean and smoke-free. For their winter project of hats and mittens, donations of fleece fabric, ¼" elastic and thread would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your donated materials to the meeting!

Our dinner (\$10) will be "Surprise Chicken" plus a vegetarian choice prepared by our own chefs, Barb Dewell and Lois Norris. If this is your first time, please be our guest. Reservations must be made no later than Friday, November 11, to Janet West. We hope to see you at the meeting.



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

November, 2011

Tue., Nov. 1, 7 p.m., Religious Growth & Learning (FH)
Wed., Nov. 2, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)
Thu., Nov. 3, 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee (DNW)
7:30 p.m., ASN's Autism Caregivers (SA)
Sun., Nov. 6, 4 p.m., Writing for Spiritual Growth (DNW)
Mon., Nov. 7, 7 p.m., Fellowship Committee (FH)
Tue., Nov. 8, 1 p.m., Retirees Group (FH)
6 p.m. Committee on Ministry/Burks (FH)
7 p.m. Adult R.E. (DNW)
Wed., Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (DNW)
Thu., Nov. 10, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
Sat., Nov. 12, 11 a.m., ASN's Autism Caregivers (SA)
4 p.m., McNeill/Burks Wedding Reception (SA)
Sun., Nov. 13, 12:45 p.m., Lunch for Newcomers (DNW)
5:30 p.m. Social Justice Movie/Potluck (WH)
Mon., Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)
7 p.m. LGBTQ Welcoming (DNW)
7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)
Tue., Nov. 15, 1 p.m., Communications Committee (DNW)
5 p.m., Caring Committee (FH)
7 p.m., Membership (FH)
7 p.m. Adult R.E. (DNW)
Thu., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m., Music & Worship (DNW)
7:30 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)
Sat., Nov. 19, 8:30 a.m., OTOC Leader Retreat (offsite)
11 a.m. ASN's Autism Caregivers (SA)
6 p.m., Thanksgiving Dinner (WH)
Mon., Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
7 p.m., Advertising Advisory Council (DNW)
Tue., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)
Thu., Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Day; Church Office Closed
Fri., Nov. 25, Church Office Closed
Sun., Nov. 27, 5 p.m., Vespers Service (SA)
Mon., Nov. 28, 7 p.m., Cornerstones: Earth- Based Spirituality (FH)
Tue., Nov. 29, 6:30 p.m., Stewardship Task Force (DNW)
Wed., Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m., Building & Grounds (DNW)

Regular Events:

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., Worship Service
Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments
Sundays, 4 p.m., "Forum" (check weekly)
First & Third Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Second Circle
Tuesdays, 12 noon, Lunch @ Church
Wednesdays, 7 p.m., YRUU (at First Unitarian)
Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal

15th of Every Month: *Second Thoughts* deadline

Calendar Codes:

RE=Religious Education, (FH)=First Hour Area, (SA)=Sanctuary, (DN)=Downstairs, (DNW) = Downstairs Worship Area (OS)=Offsite, (WH)=Whole Church, (PR)=Private Rental, (KI)=Kitchen, (MO)=Minister's office: scheduled by Minister only.

Save These Dates Next Month:

Christmas Eve Services at 4 and 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Service at 5 p.m.

Night of 1,000 Stars December 3

Small Group Ministries start December 4

Let us know how you use this calendar. Do you post it on your refrigerator? Do you use it to remind you of a meeting you need to attend? Or perhaps do you prefer to check the online calendar which is updated regularly, not just once a month like this calendar in the newsletter? Please let us know how important this calendar is to you, and if you have suggestions for improvements. **Thank you!**

All events are subject to change.

To check the latest church calendar updates anytime, visit www.SecondUnitarianOmaha.org and click on CALENDAR OF EVENTS in the left-hand column, or call the church if there is a question.

Contact Us

Staff

Church Phone (402) 334-0537

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Second Thoughts

Staff: Rev. Scott McNeill, Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell, Gary Emenitove

Board of Trustees

board@secondunitarianomaha.org

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2012

Kathy Bell
Lorraine Duggin
Don Shennum, Secretary

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2013

Cheri Cody, Chair
Laura Neece-Baltaro
Nancy VanderSluis, Vice-Chair

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2014

JoAnne Draper
Anita Jeck

Appointed by the Board of Trustees

Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church Of Omaha

3012 South 119th Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68144

(402) 334-0537

www.secondunitarianomaha.org

Committees

Audit Committee

Richard Baltaro, Chair

Building and Grounds

Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

Caring

Dodie Robison, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Richard Koelling, Contact

Communications

Nancy Amsler, Chair

Fellowship

Janet Nichols & Betty Segell, Co-Chairs

Finance Coordinating Council

Vicki Pratt, Chair

Endowment Fund

Stu Burns, Chair

Fundraising

Chris Peters & Stephanie Peterson, Co-Chairs

Stewardship

Clyde Anderson, Chair

Library

Melissa Konecky, Chair

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

Jaime Short, Chair

Membership

Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Music & Worship

Julie Kirn, Chair

Aesthetics/Second Showing

Dodie Robison & Pam Curtiss-Smith, Contacts

Nominations/Leadership Development

Sue Aschinger, Chair

Personnel

Carol Johnson, Contact

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Pat Caffrey, Chair

Care for the Environment

Contact to be announced

Closing the Economic Gap

Pat Caffrey & Cheri Cody, Contacts

Welcoming Congregation / LGBTQ Beacon

Tammy Hunter, Contact

Technology

Bill Kuhn, Chair

Writing for Spiritual Growth

David Martin, Contact

Many church communications are sent via e-mail. A weekly e-news update is transmitted each Wednesday. If you have no access to a computer, please let the church office administrator know the best way to convey information to you.

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MISSION STATEMENT
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA**

“Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is an inclusive and nurturing religious community engaged in thoughtful pursuit of truth and meaning. Our mission is to grow as a beacon of hope – sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity and promotes justice and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.”

Adopted May 16, 2004