



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## *Second Thoughts*

December, 2013

### *Join Us This Sunday!*

**Worship Services**  
9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

**Fellowship and  
Refreshments**  
10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

***Adopt a Family***  
(see page 5)

***Christmas Eve  
Services***  
4 p.m. & 6 p.m.  
(see page 7)

***Service Learning  
Project***  
(see page 8)

***Social Justice  
Summit  
Coming in  
January***  
(see page 13)

- December 1 Rev. Scott McNeill  
**Bring Many Names**  
In seminary, I learned that Islam has 99 names for God. The word god has such power - enough to start wars and end lives, enough power to change people in wholly good or bad ways (and in holy ways). Our worship theme of the month is "**God**" and we'll explore different ways to describe and understand "the g-word," even if we don't buy into those definitions ourselves.
- December 8 Rev. Dr. Fritz Hudson, *Minister at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln*  
**Facing Facts, Faithfully**  
From Galileo to Einstein, perceptive realists have struggled to wring hope from the universe as we find it. Have they illumined a path we can follow?
- December 15 Rev. Scott McNeill  
**(R)evolution**  
In 2012, NBC premiered the show "Revolution." It's a science fiction show that grapples with a world devoid of electricity and how it changes us, causing us to evolve (or devolve). As the world around us naturally darkens, we'll take some time to reflect on simplicity and busyness ahead of the winter solstice.
- December 22 Rev. Scott McNeill  
**'Tis the Season ...**  
Each holiday, many of us struggle with expectations – getting enough done, buying or giving enough, or whether we are feeling the right emotions at the right times. Today we invite everyone to join together as a religious community knowing that we are who, what, and where we are "supposed" to be. "Tis the season" to be ourselves!
- December 24 Rev. Scott McNeill  
**Christmas Eve Family Service** at 4 p.m.  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at 6 p.m.
- December 29 **Service to Be Announced**  
Watch your weekly enews and Order of Service for updates.

*Second Thoughts* is a publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.  
Please send articles and submissions to [info@2Uomaha.org](mailto:info@2Uomaha.org).  
Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



## Minister's Musings

By Rev. Scott McNeill

Winter often brings to mind images of home, whatever that might be for each of us. Whether it's a farm where we grew up, with the hard ground and cold air around us – or whether it's living in a big city, seeing lights appear through neighbors' homes, many of us feel connected to the memory and image of home more during the winter than other times of year. For me, summer always feels like a time of adventure, but when the wind whips and the snow falls, I'm ready to hunker down and not go out.

Here at Second Unitarian, that seems to be true in some ways. Always to my amazement, Sunday morning attendance is strong over the winter months. Activities pop up in the evenings and weekends and we light the chalice as a way of sparking warmth in our hearts and minds, if not to warm our hands and feet.

It's a fantastic feeling, finding a place that feels like a spiritual home. The concept of home, like just about anything, can be fraught – some are or have been homeless, for others home was a place of abuse or neglect. But the ability to create home, to redefine the word and to create good memories, is a powerful option for many adults.

So what does it look like to build a "home" that meets the needs of hundreds of people? We are all aware that religious community can never quite be like "home" – there's far too much compromise involved when two or more people have to organize a life, let alone hundreds. Still, we can use the imagery for its better aspects.

***In a religious home, we are all under the same roof, but not in the same room.***

Some of the best gatherings I've attended are ones that are spread out throughout someone's abode, sometimes people spend their whole evenings in the small kitchen talking to one another while making dinner. Others might retire to the den to relax, or stand out on the deck. In our religious home, we are united by our common faith as Unitarian Universalists but we recognize that some of us are more suited to different parts of the house – or that some of us move around between the different parts.

***In a religious home, we all share the chores.***

For better or worse, we all know that homes don't run themselves. The Jetsons promised many aspects of cleaning and help that still haven't come to fruition (if anyone has a Rosie the Robot, we invite you to share!). Like our homes, religious communities need people to do the work around the house – sometimes doing what feels right and best, and other times doing something that feels like a chore. It always amazes me that some people feel called to rake the leaves and others feel called to wash the dishes. Somehow, we work together to show off our strengths while also attending to the more annoying tasks – when we share the load, the work is done easier.

***In a religious home, we leave a light on for those who need to find their way.***

When I visit some place and it's dark, and I need to find my way, I inevitably make it back to bed with a half-dozen bruises and bumps, either stubbing my toe or smacking into a wall. It's hard to make it through life without help, and in our religious community, we try to offer a light to people who are searching. We also recognize (especially fitting for December) that sometimes being in the darkness is exactly what we need. So a religious home can neither shine too bright a light or turn off all the lights, but we encourage people to find a balance, and to help others find their way.

Surely, there are other ways we can use the metaphor and ways that we can point out its imperfections. But as you feel the chill of the wind, see the snow on the ground, smell the scents that tap into your memory of home – think of the various homes you have, now and in the past.

Our home of liberal religion acts as a shelter from the cold winds of oppression and intolerance, it encourages us to work together even though we are different, and is a common ground where we can connect. May we strive to ensure all who seek a home, both literal and metaphorical, will find a place to call their home.

In faith,

Rev. Scott





## Planks and Slivers from the Board



**Blessings to you and your family as we celebrate this Holiday Season!  
It is a privilege to serve our congregation & we look forward to 2014.  
Your Church Board Team: JoAnne Draper, Craig Piquette, Anita Jeck,  
Gay Robinson Abraham, Judy Eller, & Stephanie Peterson**



### Share the Plate for December: Minister's Discretionary Fund

**One half of Second Unitarian's offering received on December will go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund at the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.**

Started four years ago, the Minister's Discretionary Fund is a way to assist people in need, offer scholarships and funding for education and development, and purchase unbudgeted items for the church's needs. Historically, this fund has been used primarily to pay for electric bills, groceries, rent and medical needs for people connected to the congregation.

Did you know that you helped people struggling to buy food, get medications, and pay rent? In the fall of 2013, a family moved to the United States and was caught in the middle of our government shutdown. The support system that was set up for them had fallen through. They were unable to get documents enabling them to work, start school, etc., due to the shutdown. They were able to make ends meet by different organizations pulling together to help them, and we were a part of this through the Discretionary Fund.

Some generous members of Second Unitarian Church have supported this Fund throughout the year by regular giving. In order to sustain the Minister's Discretionary Fund, half of the offering received by Second Unitarian Church during December will be donated to the Fund.

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 October 31, 2013**

**YTD Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$70,198.68  
reflects 38.6% of \$181,841.00 Total Pledged for 2013-14.

## ***FINANCIAL SUMMARY***

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$11,938.65	\$85,921.45
Expenses	-\$16,467.34	-\$62,502.15
Net Over/Short	-\$ 4,528.69	\$23,419.30

**YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$3,034.00  
received of (6) New Pledges for \$9,000.00 for 2013-14.

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

**Thank you!**  
Treasurer  
Pat Caffrey

## **End of Year Giving Reminder**

By Clyde Anderson, Chair, Finance Coordinating Council

Please remember: Your 2013 donations to the Church must be received by Sunday, December 29 to be recorded for the 2013 Tax Year.

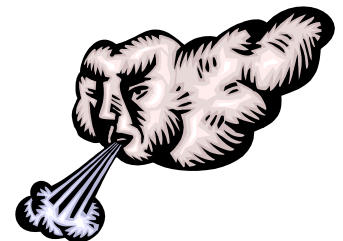
By the end of January the Treasurer will send you a summary of your 2013 recorded financial contributions. Please save this statement for your tax records.

If you have any questions, please contact Clyde Anderson.

### ***Weather-Related Cancellations***

If weather or road conditions cause services or a major 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. Sending a message on Facebook, and
4. Placing a message on the church website ([www.2Uomaha.org](http://www.2Uomaha.org)).



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

## Share the Joy this Holiday Season -- Adopt a Family!

We at Second Unitarian are fortunate to have a loving community of friends with whom to celebrate our joys, ease the pain of our sorrows, and join in the fellowship that surrounds the winter holiday season. As we know, many people do not have these same privileges or the means to celebrate the season with their families.

In cooperation with Heartland Family Services, the Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning Committee is coordinating the sponsorship of two local families. One family includes a single parent with five children: an 11-year-old girl, 14-year-old twins (boy and girl), a 16-year-old girl, and an 18-year-old boy. The other family has a single parent with one biological daughter plus seven foster daughters ranging in age from 2 to 13 (one of Mom's girlfriends moved in to help with the kids, so we are giving her a little something, too). **Second Unitarian members and friends can provide the gifts, cash, or gift cards to help make the season a little brighter for these needy families.**

Participate in this wonderful event. In the church foyer is an area where you may take one or more gift tags and purchase the wished-for items. Donations of cash and gift cards are also welcome and can be dropped in the box in this same area. One of our families buys their groceries at Baker's and the other buys groceries at Hy-Vee, so gift cards to buy food for holiday meals are always welcome.

Please wrap your gift donations with the gift tag attached to identify the contents. **Bring them to the church by Sunday, December 8.** This will allow the families to do additional shopping before the holiday. If you want to take a larger role in this joyous and meaningful experience, contact Becky Scherbring or Katie Tessin to volunteer to shop, sort, wrap, and/or deliver the gifts.

-- Becky Scherbring, Anita Meyer, & Katie Tessin

## Connecting Our Congregation to Our Larger Faith

*by Vicki Pratt, Denominational Connections Chair*

This month features recognition for outstanding individuals and congregations. My intention was to promote nominations for 2014 MidAmerica Region awards. Awards are traditionally presented at Annual Conference, but with the change from district to regional administrative divisions, awards have been suspended for a year to give staff time to evaluate and combine previous awards. So I'll take this opportunity to list the former Prairie Star District awards and give another shout out to winners from our own congregation.

*Unsung UU Award:* First presented in 1981 this award affirmed those whose actions inspire UUism but had not been previously recognized. **Cheri Cody** won in 2003 and **Denise McMillan** in 2007.

*President's Award:* Established in 1998 this award was in appreciation for service to the district.

*Pickett Award:* This award honored a congregation that made a significant contribution to the growth of UUism. **Second Unitarian** (2005) is one of only 13 winners!

*Betty Gorshe Heritage Award:* Since 2005 this award recognized an individual for preserving and celebrating UU history.

*Social Justice Award:* There were separate awards for social justice efforts by an adult and youth.

*Ellie Morton Award:* **Anita Jeck** was honored in 2006 with this award for outstanding work in religious education.

*Keeping the Faith Award:* Established in 2000, this award recognized work in the community. **Clyde Anderson** won in 2006 and **Cheri Cody** in 2007.

### MidAmerica Regional Assembly Reminder

Mark your calendar for April 11-13 in Topeka, Kansas.



## Giving During the Holidays

By Rev. Scott McNeill



We want people to recognize that their gifts are not taken for granted and that we hope people will feel called to give in whatever way fits for their lives and circumstances. For individuals and families, our finances can weigh heavy on us at any point – but especially when lots of requests are made. Second Unitarian wants to encourage giving, as a way of offering tangible support to our ministry – but we also want people to be good stewards of their resources, financial and emotional.

At the end of each year, for many people money seems to leave our accounts as quickly (or faster) as it enters. For some people, there are gifts to buy, food to make, travel to arrange (a small plug – I hope you'll forgive me: If you are buying gifts and utilize Amazon.com, consider bookmarking and using [this link](#) as the church receives a

percentage of every purchase made through this link as part of Amazon's support. It's a way to support the church without spending extra!).

Then there are many requests for donations (especially if you want to get that last little bit in for tax deductions before the end of the year!). We understand that people have various financial considerations, so we wanted to make sure people knew what we are asking for this season, and why.

Each month, we share our offering in an effort to create justice in the world (if you'd like to nominate a group – and we hope you will – please contact us using [this webpage](#)). In November, our support was to [Inclusive Communities](#), a program that strengthens relationships between people of different backgrounds in Omaha.

Also, usually each year around the holidays, we participate in a local "Adopt-a-Family" project where members bring in gifts or financial contributions to assist families struggling to make ends meet. (*see page 5*) We have gift requests available now, if you'd like to participate.

In December, we will again have our [Share the Plate](#) program. Our tradition has been to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which helps support people in financial need, to offer learning opportunities for members, and other programs supporting the church. If **you** are in need of assistance (or **know someone** who could use some help), we hope that you'll remember that this is occasionally an option for help.

And of course, we encourage people to pay what they're able to of their financial pledge to the church to ensure a regular cash flow.

We strive to balance our requests for giving so that people don't feel overburdened. We hope that our members and friends understand that our goal is not a permanent raising of funds, but that we have the money and resources we need to fulfill our mission. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps turn our mission into a reality -- ***"Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world."***

In gratitude for all that you give,  
Rev. Scott



## Christmas Eve Services 2013

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24!

Our **4 p.m. worship** will be a *family-friendly service* as children and adults prepare for the fun and festivities of Christmas. Join us for an exciting, energetic worship filled with songs and stories!

If you prefer the *quieter, more contemplative services*, our **6 p.m. worship** is right for you. Each year, we have a candlelight service which calls on us to reflect on winter, anticipation, and our lives.

Last year, several people came to both as Christmas Eve is a great chance to slow down and reflect on life during all of the hustle and bustle of the season.



Rev. (and Dr.) Fritz Hudson, the settled minister at Lincoln's Unitarian Universalist church, recently announced his planned retirement after serving in Lincoln for 15 years (his first settlement was in 1976 – meaning he's served our faith as a minister for 37 years). In the summer of 2014, Fritz will leave his position as the minister in Lincoln, and will look to help other congregations during their interim period. Fritz has served several congregations over his tenure (Wilmington NC, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Iowa City) and currently is on the UU Ministers' Association, holding the "Good Officers" portfolio. "Good Officers" are ministers who work with clergy during difficult times, and this is a great use of Fritz's talents in leading and educating ministers, as well as working on ethics.

In addition to ministry, Fritz has a Juris Doctorate from the University of North Carolina (your minister/resident Duke fan will forgive that sin) and has done work and volunteering with immigration issues. While in Lincoln, he's also voiced support for same-sex couples to adopt children and worked with leaders of the city and state to move toward inclusion and equality for different communities.

Many of you may know this already, but Lincoln Unitarian Church is expanding their facilities and working on their own strategic plan of growth over the next few years. With 300 members and around 100 children, their church already reaches many people in Lincoln but they're working even harder to offer their ministry to the city.

Fritz is preaching at Second Unitarian on December 8, and hopefully members of the church will offer him a note of gratitude for his ministry and talents. Over the years that Fritz has been in Lincoln, he's worked with Second Unitarian and its ministers. We wish Fritz, and his wife Ginny, well as they move to their next place and the invitation to come and visit will always be open.

- Rev. Scott McNeill



# Service Learning Project for December/January

By Anita Jeck & Rev. Scott McNeill

For over a year, our church community has worked in the community to help change the world for better while also learning about justice. Our [Service Learning Projects](#), usually on the last Sunday of the month, are open to all members, friends, and visitors at Second Unitarian – and particularly, we use this as an opportunity to create multigenerational community with our children, teens, adults, and elders.

In December, we are planning to make blankets as our Service Learning Project. Part of our day will be to learn about [Project Harmony](#) and the work they do in support of children who have been abused or neglected and their families. We are doing this, in part, to build our connections with Project Harmony: in January, our church will be hosting an important all-church workshop regarding our future work in Social Justice. This workshop (on Martin Luther King weekend) will be at Project Harmony so that we can have plenty of space, including an accessible entrance for anyone who would join us. The gifts we create in December will be taken in January, both as a thank you to them and as a way to support and offer physical and emotional comfort to children.

The mission of Project Harmony, located near 120<sup>th</sup> & Q Street, is “To protect and support children, collaborate with professionals and engage the community to end child abuse and neglect.” Second Unitarian Church will be supporting their mission by making fleece blankets to be given to children facing emergency foster placement. These blankets provide some small measure of comfort, caring, and security amidst a confusing and highly stressful situation.

There are several ways you can contribute to this effort:

- Purchase and cut two pieces of coordinating fleece in 54” x 60” segments. Place in the bin marked “fleece” at the church.
- Plan to help cut the edges to be tied later. (Contact Anita Meyer, Anita Jeck, or Interim DRE Molly-Kliment Jenkins to see how you can help with this.)
- Attend “tying sessions” for all ages to make the blankets—Sunday, December 29, at 10:30 a.m. downstairs at the church; and Sunday, January 26, at 10:00 a.m. at the Millard Library, 13214 Westwood Lane, just south of 132<sup>nd</sup> and Center Street.

Thank you for your help with this project! Please direct questions to Anita Meyer, Anita Jeck, or Interim DRE Molly Kliment-Jenkins at [dre@2uomaha.org](mailto:dre@2uomaha.org) or 402-334-0537 ext. 112.

We're  
Going  
on  
a...



**TRASH  
HUNT!**

That was the song that we sang as we headed into the grasslands around Standing Bear Lake. Our Service Learning Project (SLP) for October was cleaning up trash at the dam site in northwest Omaha. The folks with the greatest haul found it down by the water hidden in the grass and rocks. In 45 minutes, we found lots of fishing gear, including worm containers, fishing line, hooks, lures and even two working fishing reels. As always, the requisite disposable drink and food containers and some odd items were also gathered. In the words of one of the kids, “Someone doesn’t know how to throw trash away!” Our eight bags of trash are a testament to our keen eyesight and determination. Hot chocolate and marshmallows were our reward!

*Photo by Molly Kliment-Jenkins*





# Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Interim Director of Religious Education



## RE in Review (with a side of repartee)

So far, the Religious Education school year is off to a quiet start. I'd love to have more noise, more discussion, and more activity downstairs during service! Especially if your child is in the Middle School group, please encourage them to come. The curriculum is leading the children to discussions that are truly interesting and mind-stretching. I know our adult volunteers who lead our classes come ready to serve: let's give them what they came for!

If you want to know what the kids will be learning about on the following Sunday or develop ways to take the lesson home, please email me ([dre@2uomaha.org](mailto:dre@2uomaha.org)) so I can add you to the email list. Every Friday, I will send out info about the upcoming Sunday. If you did not register your child for RE, I do not have you on my email list.

If you have any old shoe boxes, cigar boxes, or old metal tins (esp. square ones or Altoids tins) you'd like to part with, we'd love to have them! We can use them to sort and organize these lessons so that the kids can easily return to them throughout the year, and we can keep our downstairs organized. Please drop them off in the DRE office.

If you are interested in helping set up during the week or assisting on Sunday (either service time, but primarily the 9:30 time), please contact me. We have our primary leaders set up but they could use a helping hand/assistants!

## Looking for some "fun" money?

Well, here's your opportunity! We are looking for adults or teens who are interested in child care opportunities. We pay. We train. You have fun with the kids.

We are specifically needing an adult on Sundays when our regular Sunday child care worker, Kaitlyn Hayes, has the weekend off for one or both services. We are also looking for help during important events, like annual meetings, or for small group ministry (i.e., Parents' Group).

Our Safe Congregations policy requires that we have two child care providers in the room, one who is an adult and not of the same household as the teen.

Please let me know ([dre@2uomaha.org](mailto:dre@2uomaha.org) or 402-334-0537, ext. 112) if you are interested in helping us (and helping yourself)!

With hope and joy for the future,  
Molly

## 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!



## Nebraska AIDS Project Fundraiser

*By Tammy Hunter*

---

Please join the LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee for our annual fundraiser for the Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP). It will be a party at the home of Dan and Ferial Pearson, from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 7.**

We will have hearty appetizers, wine, and dessert. Free-will donations to NAP will be gratefully accepted. For those who would also like to attend the Night of a Thousand Stars Gala at the Mastercraft Building, 1111 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Omaha, tickets will be \$60, and the event will include dancing, dessert, and a silent auction. The Gala will be held from 9 p.m. to midnight, following the party at the Pearson's home. Please check your church directory or contact Ferial for the address of the Pearson's home.

All proceeds from this event will support the education, outreach, and client services programs at Nebraska AIDS Project. Nebraska AIDS Project leads the community in the fight to overcome HIV/AIDS and its stigma through education, supportive services, and advocacy.

Please sign up in the coffee hour area, or contact Tammy Hunter to RSVP.

## December Second Circle Teen Movie

*By Anita Meyer*

---

**On Sunday, December 15, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.**, the teens will be watching "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." Discussion will be led by Bob Fischbach, movie reviewer at the Omaha World-Herald. Snacks will be available and a free will donation will be taken for pizza.

This film focuses on family and relates the trials and tribulations of a turn-of-the-century Brooklyn tenement family. The father is a likable but irresponsible alcoholic whose dreams of improving his family's lot are invariably doomed. The mother is the true head of the household, holding the family together no matter what crisis arises. The story is told from the point of view of their daughter, a clear-eyed realist who nonetheless would like to believe in her pie-in-the-sky father, whom she dearly loves.

Other movies the teens will be viewing in the future are Sunday, January 19, "Win Win" and Sunday, February 16, "Good Will Hunting."

## Meditation Reincarnated

*By Kevin Dunlop*

---

In his book, Savor, Buddhist monk and author Thich Nhat Hanh writes, "We all have bad days when everything seems to go wrong. After such a long day, we feel tired, discouraged, and down. We might have an urge to have some comfort food - a pint of ice cream, say, or some chocolate chip cookies or a bag of chips. At times like these, it is best simply to return to our body through mindful breathing, cut off all external contact, and close the door of the senses. Following our breathing, we can collect our mind, body, and breath, and they will become one." Mindful breathing is a simple and basic skill that the Meditation Reincarnated group is always learning about and practicing. We are currently using the book Savor by Thich Nhat Hanh as a study tool.

Meditation Reincarnated meets in the church downstairs on the fourth Thursday of each month to learn about and practice meditation. Both the book and our meditation practice is designed for everyone, whether monk or beginner. No previous meditation experience is necessary, and we invite you to come and check us out. **Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 26, at 7:45 p.m.**, and we will discuss chapter 6 of the book Savor. That's the day after Christmas - a day when everyone could probably benefit from the peace of mind that meditation brings!



## Building & Grounds

*By Clyde Anderson, Co-Chair, Building & Grounds*

### Priority Church Repairs Completed

Did you miss that pothole driving into the Church parking lot? This fall we finally found a paving contractor that would patch the potholes and ruts and then restripe the stalls. It looks nice and is much safer, but it's simply a five-year life extension. Replacing the parking lot would cost more than \$30,000 compared to only \$1,750 for the repairs.

Another contractor straightened and anchored the southwest window well wall. This may have been the source of the storm water leak in the southwest basement classroom. The contractor also repaired the sidewalk, landing, and stairs leading to the Minister's Office, another safety hazard corrected.

### Fall Cleanup, Part One

We were greeted with beautiful weather for our Church Yard Cleanup November 2. Thanks to the ten volunteers who did so much to improve the appearance of our Church yard: Rick & Kathy Bell, Donna Dudley, Janet Nichols, Roger Nicolaisen, Craig Piquette, Tom & Shirley Rundquist, and Cade Ullerich.

### Next Fall Work Day December 7

Our last Fall Work Day is scheduled for the morning of **Saturday, December 7, from 8 a.m. to noon** to finish raking leaves and pruning trees as well as making some interior repairs to the Church. Please join us! Contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist if you have questions.

## Blackstone Book Club

*By Gwen Eurich*

In December we traditionally gather for a Christmas potluck. This month's party will be held at the home of Doris Peterson. Call me, Gwen Eurich if you would like more details. We will not be reading a book this month.

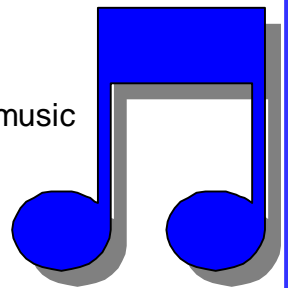
In January, we will resume our regular schedule with a discussion of What It Is Like To Go To War by Karl Marlantes. We encourage anyone interested to join us.

### *The Power of Music*

Music is an integral part of life as we celebrate, when we grieve, when we worship, as we march together for a cause. But were you aware of the power of music in medicine? Music Therapy is a clinical and evidence based therapy similar to occupational and physical therapy. And there are good results for patients recovering from strokes, injury, or disease.

The Caring Committee is sponsoring a workshop at church **Wednesday evening, January 29, at 7 p.m.** on "The Power of Music." Emily Wadhams, a music therapist, will be our presenter.

Please plan to attend. It's fascinating to learn what Music Therapy has done for patients and their families dealing with Alzheimer's, dementia, neurological disorders, and recovering stroke victims.



*- Dodie Robison*



## CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

*Adopted May 23, 2010*

To strengthen the bond of peace within and beyond the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha: We pledge

- to create a religious community where we freely explore our values and honor our diversity as a source of communal strength.
- to build healthy relationships by respecting our differences and assuming good intentions.
- to listen appreciatively and endeavor to speak directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict.
- to do our best to forgive if we hurt one another, to make amends and to reconnect in a spirit of gratitude and generosity.
- to abide by this covenant in celebration of the common purpose that unites us.

Faithfully done, our work carries forward the ministry of this church to create loving community and supports our mission to grow as a beacon of hope—sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity, justice, and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.

## Membership Journeys

*By Leslie Briar Harvey, Membership Committee Chair*

Become an ***Ambassador!***

The Membership Committee is creating a new Ambassador program, to help shepherd new members and returning visitors into our congregation. The time commitment is low, but the impact is so large.

In addition to being available to visitors and new members during fellowship activities, Ambassadors will also have the opportunity to mentor new members if they choose. This might include inviting someone out to coffee, attending events, and suggesting ways to get involved.

Join us at church Tuesday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner, and take a look at the program and what we're hoping to do with it. Childcare will be available. Contact Leslie Harvey to RSVP or ask questions.

***SAVE THE DATE - March 2, 2014***

*Special Joint Sunday Service for*

***Stewardship Commitment Sunday, Followed by Potluck***

***Beveridge Middle School - 120th & Shirley***



## Staff

**Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister**

Office hours by appointment  
402-334-0537 ext. 111  
[minister@2Uomaha.org](mailto:minister@2Uomaha.org)

**Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill, Affiliated Community Minister**

[communityminister@2Uomaha.org](mailto:communityminister@2Uomaha.org)

**Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Interim Director of Religious Education**

402-334-0537 ext. 112  
[dre@2umaha.org](mailto:dre@2umaha.org)

**Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator**

402-334-0537 ext. 114  
[info@2Uomaha.org](mailto:info@2Uomaha.org)

**Donna Zebolsky, Music Director**

[music@2Uomaha.org](mailto:music@2Uomaha.org)

**Katie Tessin, Connections Coordinator**

[membership@2uomaha.org](mailto:membership@2uomaha.org)

**Second Thoughts Staff:** Rev. Scott McNeill,  
Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell,  
Tom Peterson, Gary Emenitove

<b>Attendance</b>				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Service Learning
10/27	66	7	13	
11/3	74	8	16	
11/10	84	9	20	
11/17	74	8	19	
11/24	90	<i>Intergenerational</i>		<i>at church</i>

**Second Unitarian Church of Omaha**  
3012 South 119th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68144  
402-334-0537  
[www.2Uomaha.org](http://www.2Uomaha.org)

Mark your calendar for...

**Second Unitarian Church - Social Justice Summit**  
**Saturday, January 18, 2014**  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
offsite at **Project Harmony**  
(one of our many Share The Plate partners)  
**11949 Q Street**

***All are invited and encouraged to attend!***

This is an opportunity for all of us as members and friends of Second Unitarian Church to consider what we are doing as an institution and as individuals to create a more just and caring world. What do we want to do as a religious community to put our faith into practice, to bring our mission into reality?

**Guest Facilitator will be Jacqui Williams**, a member of First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany.

Watch for more details. Next SJCC Planning Meeting: Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m. at Second Unitarian Church

**The Library Committee prepared a list of books from our library** – feel free to check out a book and enjoy a bit of reading!

**Second Unitarian Church**

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***MISSION STATEMENT  
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA***

*“Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.”*

*Adopted May 20, 2012*