



July, 2011

Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

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Join us July 10
as we celebrate
David Plank's
time with us

**A Celebration of
Journeys
Friday, July 22
6 - 9 p.m.
(see page 6)**

Join Us This Sunday!

First Hour Discussion 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Refreshments 11:30 a.m.

July 3 **Celebrating Interdependence** Laura Shennum
*How do we move from individual needs to recognize the needs of another? Using Karen Armstrong's book, **Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life**, we will examine how we can create a culture of care.*

First Hour **Writing for Spiritual Growth** David Martin

July 10 **But I Want It My Way!** Rev. Scott McNeill
Often in life we have strong opinions about what should happen. And equally often, the universe pushes back. Let's talk about that this week! Also, today is David Plank's final Sunday at Second Unitarian. We will celebrate his work.

First Hour **"Immigration as a Moral Issue" Update**
OTOC Immigration Reform Team

July 17 **Spirituality in Everyday Life**
Members of the Congregation

First Hour **Our Unitarian Universalist Story** Stu Burns & Anita Jeck

July 24 **Consumerism and our Spirituality** Patrick Murray
Dr. Murray will speak on how our society -- bombarded with messages to buy and consume -- affects our daily living and spirituality. As a professor at Creighton University Philosophy Department, Dr. Murray frequently teaches the work of Rev. John Kavanaugh and much of this sermon will be taken from Rev. Kavanaugh's work.

First Hour **Our Unitarian Universalist Story** Stu Burns & Anita Jeck

July 31 **Reflections on Ministerial Formation** Laura Shennum
What do active listening, presence, self-reflection, and stories have to do with ministry? Please join Laura Shennum for a reflection on her last two years in seminary and how Second Unitarian started her path toward a call toward ministry.

First Hour **Our Unitarian Universalist Story** Stu Burns & Anita Jeck

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



Over the course of the past year, I have been amazed and impressed with the amount of work that many of you do to support the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha. From making coffee to making copies, from planning programs to singing solos, many of you give your talents to the church and volunteer in marvelous ways. The health and vitality of this congregation is owed to the varied contributions you make in order to sustain this faith and I am so thankful to bear witness to that work.

As we end our first year of settled ministry together, I cannot help but look back on the many events we faced together and the work ahead of us. In the past year, we have lost two incredibly important people in our history, Gail Harrison and the Reverend Nancy Haley. We have welcomed new life into our congregation (if Kenshiro Harvey can read this already, we're really blessed!). We have welcomed many new members and seen a few folks move away or stop attending. All in all, a very full year.

And as we look toward the fall, we are faced with the changes of a growing community. Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is moving to two Sunday morning worship services, to accommodate the people who are filling our sanctuary every week. We hope this will allow and encourage us to invite more people, to get the good news of our faith out in Omaha, so that we can grow as a community.

It will, undoubtedly, bring about some sadness and grief. It won't be quite as easy to see the same people week in and week out. Some of us will prefer the early service to get our Sundays going, while other people will want to sleep in a little bit. Others of us will be here all morning long (feel free to join us, if you'd like)!

I really appreciate the trust that people have in one another to proceed with work like this. The leadership and staff of Second Unitarian will work hard to find ways to connect people to strengthen the bonds of connection between one another. Additionally, we hope that this move gives us the opportunity to welcome new people into our community and build on the good work we are accomplishing already. We hope you'll take this as an opportunity to invite that new neighbor, that person from the meeting you've always thought would be interested, anyone and everyone that you can!

In the fall, the church will begin covenant groups – small groups that meet regularly to discuss topics of faith. We also hope to begin support groups; for instance, one for parents of children with autism or people who have retired and would like to get together. In the fall we will continue our Tuesday lunch hours, for anyone who would like to stop by. We hope to offer more social events, just plain fun because we all deserve some plain fun!

If you have thoughts or questions, my door (and e-mail inbox) is always open and I cannot wait to talk more about the work we have done this year as well as the work that awaits us. There is a world out there that desires a liberal faith, a faith that welcomes people and celebrates their lives rather than denies their experience. May we continue to be that faith and may we welcome more and more people into our church walls so that we may create justice and spiritual grounding for all!

In faith,

Rev. Scott



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Cheri Cody, Chair, Board of Trustees



New beginnings are exciting and filled with potential. So it is as we begin a new church year with known and unknown opportunities coming our way. I am honored to be the new chairperson of the Board and look forward to a rewarding and productive year with my fellow board members and all of you who are on committees or serve the church in other ways.

The past three years have seen many transitions, so it feels especially good to be entering our second year of settled ministry. And it feels good to be able to develop plans so we can move on to create our future. The board has been working to articulate a vision for Second Unitarian and when it is ready for review, we will be sharing it with you and getting your reaction and feedback. Once we, as a congregation, have agreed on a vision, we will have a basis for creating a long-range plan – our road map for the next three to five years.

As a board and congregation we are lucky to have JoAnne Draper and Anita Jeck joining the board this year. They are both experienced leaders with a broad portfolio of skills and knowledge. Although we are sad to lose Carol Johnson and Tom Peterson as members of the board, we are grateful for their service and looking forward to the many other ways they will be sharing their talents in the coming year(s). I encourage you to express your thanks to them when you see them.

We members of the board are here to serve, so please let us know your suggestions, thoughts and dreams. We look forward to the coming year with great enthusiasm.

International Peace Award Ceremony by Chris Peters

Many of you attended my presentation on Sunday, April 10, about the International Peace Award ceremony, held the weekend of October 21-23 at the Community of Christ denominational headquarters in Kansas City. As promised, I have more information to share. This year's award recipient has been announced: Terry Tempest Williams, visionary author, naturalist, and environmental activist.

Terry Tempest Williams' writings and activism promote peace with an ethical stance toward life. Through her eloquent writings, Williams teaches us how environmental issues are social-spiritual issues that ultimately become matters of justice. She demonstrates the power of peacefully taking a stand on behalf of life, land, and the people who depend upon it. To learn more about Ms. Williams and her work and books, check out www.coyoteclan.com.

Here's the exciting part for our congregation: Saturday evening, October 22, will feature a performance by UU folksinger Peter Mayer from Minnesota, in the Temple sanctuary. Some of Mr. Mayer's music has been performed in prior Second U services -- we know him best as the writer of the song "Blue Boat Home" from the teal hymnal.

Also on tap for that weekend is a keynote address by Reverend Fletcher Harper, executive director of *GreenFaith: Interfaith Partners for the Environment* (www.greenfaith.org), who will share about environmental justice and offer practical ecological ideas for individuals, churches, and communities.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, October 21, at the Community of Christ Temple in Independence, Missouri, and lasts through Sunday morning. If any congregation members are interested in attending and would like registration information, please contact me in church, through Facebook, by phone, or by email.



Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church Treasurer's Report Month End for May 31, 2011

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| | May | Year-To-Date |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$10,842.50 | \$166,321.21 |
| Expenses | -\$14,753.09 | -\$153,452.99 |
| Net Over/Short | -\$ 3,910.59 | \$ 12,868.22 |
| | | |

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$135,818.93
reflects 91.65% of \$148,196.00 Total Pledged for 2010-11.

Offerings year to date: \$7,740.89

June is the last month of Second Unitarian's fiscal year. There is time to make contributions to your 2010-2011 pledge during June, 2011. Your generosity is appreciated!!

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

Thank you!
Treasurer
Pat Caffrey



Communications Committee

Thoughts About Second Thoughts

By Pam Curtiss-Smith

As you may recall, *Second Thoughts* was a paper-only publication not that long ago. Now, most members, affiliates, and new and returning visitors see our newsletter electronically, either by a direct mailing or a link from the Second Unitarian church website. This change is not only better for the environment, but it also saves the church money and volunteer time to get the information out to interested people. Of course, there are some people who continue to receive a paper version and any member may request to do so.

The change to an electronic newsletter did not happen overnight or without a significant amount of discussion - that would not be consistent with the Unitarian way! The Communications Committee explored a variety of options, pros, and cons before launching the electronic version that is the portable document format (pdf) of the paper version. Now, we want to explore options again.

A Focus Group with the purpose of brainstorming ways to further improve the newsletter will begin meeting in August. We seek interested members to offer opinions, experience, and knowledge to guide these changes. If you are such a member and can be available to gather and work on this process for 4-6 months, contact us at 402-334-0537, ext. 114, or communications@secondunitarianomaha.org.

Communications Policy

By Nancy Amsler

The Communications Committee has written a new Communications Policy which encompasses all of the church communications. This replaces individual policies such as the newsletter policy and the weekly e-news policy. This policy was recently approved by the Board and is posted on the church website. Please refer to it when preparing any communications. As always, please contact the Communications Committee with any questions. Thanks to all who helped with this project!



Two Service Sundays to Begin September 11

By Rev. Scott McNeill

On May 22, 2011, thirty-five years after Second Unitarian Church of Omaha was incorporated, we held a discussion regarding growth, at the congregation's Annual Meeting. As weekly attendance continues to increase, Rev. Scott McNeill engaged the congregation, various committees and individuals over the course of a year to discuss the different possibilities to maintain and encourage membership growth at Second Unitarian.

After a discussion of various possibilities (renting space, two services, making no changes), following a congregational survey and individual meetings, a member of the congregation made a motion to approve the beginning of two worship services starting in the Fall of 2011. The motion was seconded and approved 43-2.

As we head to the thirty-fifth anniversary of our congregation (our first members signed the membership book on July 25, 1976), we are moving toward an exciting potential for our church.

We will celebrate **Water Communion on September 4, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.** followed by our annual Ice Cream Social. On the **following Sunday (September 11, 2011)**, we will proceed with two worship services on Sunday morning. In the months that follow, you will see opportunities to connect through potlucks and small group discussions.

In the winter of 2011/2012, Music and Worship, Membership, Fellowship and Religious Growth and Learning will evaluate how Sunday mornings are faring and if we need to make changes. At any point along the way, Rev. Scott welcomes feedback, knowing that the change will be difficult while we settle into a new way of being. Our tradition tells us that truth is forever unfolding, and as such, we will try to learn from whatever we try in the fall to make this congregation available for its members and those in the community who need our faith.

After reading through survey responses, talking with the pertinent committees and evaluating other congregation's success, we will adopt the following schedule in the fall. Please contact Rev. Scott McNeill if you have any questions and he will help answer them or direct you to the relevant parties.

Schedule (September 11, 2011-May 20, 2012):

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:30 a.m. | Worship Religious Education (Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten-1 st grade, 2 nd -6 th grades) |
| 10:30 a.m. | Coffee Hour |
| 11:30 a.m. | Worship Religious Education (Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten) |
| 12:30 p.m. | Adult Religious Education (previously, "First Hour") |

Making this change is not an easy proposition for the staff, the leadership of the congregation or you, the members. We are incredibly lucky you are willing to sacrifice and work hard in order to strengthen the congregation and its potential for growth. Please take advantage of all of the opportunities to connect with one another as they arise, so that we may stay united as a caring community growing with and because of one another.

In faith,

Rev. Scott



Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

By Jaime Short

Cornerstone Event: A Celebration of Journeys

Please join the Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning Committee as we celebrate our personal and spiritual journeys as individuals and as a community.

All ages will gather together Friday, July 22, from 6 to 9 p.m.

We will share a meal from 6-7, then have the opportunity to create drums and share our personal stories, followed by a special drumming ceremony with Michael Fitzsimmons. Mr. Fitzsimmons is well-known in Omaha as a wonderful musician and facilitator.

Please join us wherever you are on your journey. All are welcome to share their stories or just listen to others, to take part in the drumming service or just listen to the music of Journeys.

Please RSVP to Jaime Short by July 18. We need to make sure we have enough food and supplies! Nursery care will be provided for very young children--please indicate if nursery care is needed.

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning is planning an intergenerational UU "cornerstone" event each season, to regularly honor and celebrate a cornerstone of our Unitarian Universalist identity.



TEENS - Join Us Wednesday July 6 for Bowling and More with the Minister!



All teens are invited to join Rev. Scott for **bowling and more** at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 6!

6 p.m. July 6

*At Sempeck's,
204th & Dodge*

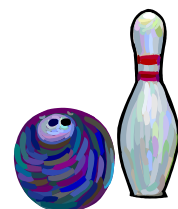
Bowling!

Laser Tag!

Lots of Surprises!!

Look for email and postcards as the date approaches! Need more info?

Contact **Gay Robinson Abraham** or **Anita Jeck**.





July 31- August 5, 2011

Come to Camp StarTrail (between Omaha and Lincoln) for another grand adventure/retreat for UUs of all ages. Past activities have included bead-making; dream analysis; painting; quilting; survival skills; Amazing Race; sock hop; talent show; barn dance, camp fire (with s'mores); challenge courses; OWL for adults; swimming, nature hikes; ad hoc writers' group, bridge games and lots more.

Theme speaker for 2011 will be Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd, minister of Bull Run Unitarian Universalists in Virginia.

Rev. Scott McNeill and Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks will be the chaplains/worship leaders that week.

Camp StarTrail pampers the camper with four housing options—meals included: (a) hotel-style luxury with private baths; (b) college dorm-style rooms with bath down the hall; (c) rustic cabins with a shower house; and, for the purist, (d) actual honest-to-goodness camp-style camping with a short walk to the rest rooms.

Camp StarTrail is July 31 to August 5, 2011. Camping that fits your budget and your soul. Find out how we "pamper the camper" at www.psduuu.org/campstartrail.

Registration closes July 6, 2011.

Camp StarTrail is sponsored by the Prairie Star District of UUA.



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.



July First Hours

9 a.m. Sundays

Writing for Spiritual Growth (first Sunday of every month)

facilitated by **David Martin**

During First Hour we will celebrate this time 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.

"Immigration As a Moral Issue" Update Sunday, July 10

facilitated by **OTOC Immigration Reform Action Team**

The OTOC Immigration Reform Action Team will update us on the current status of Arizona-style bills in the Nebraska Legislature plus legislation in other states and US Congress.

We will also hear how families in a local parish have been impacted by recent actions in Omaha.

Our Unitarian Universalist Story

facilitated by **Stu Burns and Anita Jeck**

This summer, we are offering a series on Our Unitarian Universalist Story. We will begin by examining what religious faith means, our roots in the Protestant Reformation, and continue on to examine how Unitarianism and Universalism have evolved.

This will be a good opportunity for newcomers to Unitarian Universalism, as well as for long time members, to reconnect with our heritage.

During the summer we will generally meet during First Hour on Sundays except for the first Sunday of the month. Confirm dates in the newsletter, weekly email, and Sunday Order of Service.

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!



Minutes from the May 22, 2011, Annual Meeting

by Lorraine Duggin, Secretary, Board of Trustees

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** Tom Peterson, Board Chair
2. **Opening Words and Chalice Lighting:** Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister.
3. **Confirmation of Quorum**
OUTCOME: Lorraine Duggin, secretary, confirmed quorum. 6 absentee ballots, not counted to the quorum, were also received. A motion was also passed to amend the minutes from last year's meeting to the correct date of May 23, 2010.
4. **Affirmation of Guidelines for Right Relationships**
OUTCOME: Vote passed unanimously.
5. **Presentation and election of slates of nominees.**
Board of Trustees – Joanne Draper, Anita Jeck. All 3 year terms to replace Tom Peterson and Carol Johnson, who served their terms.
Endowment Fund Committee: Joel Haskins, taking Cy Leise's place (3 year term)
Nominations and Leadership Development: Richard Koelling, to replace Joanne Draper (3 year term)
OUTCOME: Steve Abraham presented the slate, which was moved for acceptance by Gene Kopecky and seconded by Janet Nichols. The slate was passed with 1 abstention.
6. **Presentation and vote on annual budget for 2011-2012**
OUTCOME: After a brief discussion, the vote passed unanimously
7. **Approval of Delegates for General Assembly** (3 allowed)
OUTCOME: Clyde Anderson moved and Darrell Draper seconded to elect Don Shennum as a delegate to the General Assembly in Charlotte, NC, in June and to permit the Board to name two other delegates. (Assuming that two other 2nd UU members are going and are willing to be delegates.) Outcome was unanimous.
8. **Discuss Possibility of Moving to Two Sunday Services**
OUTCOME: After considerable discussion following a presentation by Rev. McNeill, the congregation voted to approve the proposal with 43 approving, 2 opposing. Motion carried. Rev. McNeill added a friendly amendment to report back to the congregation by June 19 on the details of the two services format.
9. **Closing Words:** Rev. Scott McNeill

***Mark your calendar now for the annual
Brush Up Nebraska Omaha Paint-A-Thon
Friday & Saturday, August 19 & 20***



Participation in the Paint-A-Thon is one of the charity projects organized by the Social Justice Coordinating Council, but we seek volunteers from all members and friends at Second Unitarian. Last year, 22 volunteers from Second U and 7 from First U participated!

In early July we'll find out where our assigned house is located, so check the weekly e-news or the August Second Thoughts for details. For more information, contact Melissa Konecky or Clyde Anderson.



Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Our church bylaws encourage members and affiliates "to participate actively in the church's activities." But what does that mean? Here are recommendations from the Membership Committee on how to participate to make a difference not only in your own life but also in the lives of this church and in the larger community.

- **Attend church regularly.** Church attendance enables you to connect with others and with the spiritual life of this religious community. Sermons that challenge the mind, the heart and the conscience encourage you to live your principles throughout the week.
- **Pursue your own spiritual growth.** We encourage you to explore your unique theology, to seek your own understanding of your life's purpose and meaning through the support of a loving and thoughtful religious community. Various avenues for your exploration include: Workshops, First Hour sessions, Meditation Group, Choir, Book Club, Writing for Spiritual Growth, or through the many books in our library.

- **Serve your church and the larger community.** Put your faith into action by taking part in the shared ministry of this religious community with your volunteer time. This includes caring for one another and caring for our religious community as a whole. It's also social justice ministry with the larger community.

It is understood your ability to participate will ebb and flow, but participate fully when you can so that you can reap the full benefits of your membership. Know that your participation will help assure your community will continue to be there, both for when you need it, and to serve as a religious home for future generations.

| Attendance | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Date | Adults in Worship | Adults in R.E. | Children in R.E. | Youth in Second Circle |
| 5/29 | 56 | 5 | 6 | -- |
| 6/5 | 65 | Intergenerational | | -- |
| 6/12 | 68 | Intergenerational | | -- |
| 6/19 | 57 | 2 | 2 | -- |

- 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 a favorite food or a favorite piece of music? Have you ever noticed that sometimes your experience of eating the food or listening to the music is a wonderful, fulfilling experience, and at other times it might not live up to your expectations? "Mindfulness" is the term that applies here. When you are being mindful, you are connected only with what you are doing, whether it's listening to music, taking a walk, or doing a chore. Mindfulness is also called being "present" or being "in the moment." It's when your mind is gently focused on only one thing: what you are doing at that moment. When your mind is filled with anxiety or is thinking about several things at once, the ability to experience something fully is lost.

Surprisingly, you can take steps to greatly improve your ability to be mindful - through meditation, of course! Practicing to sit quietly and notice your breathing (and nothing but your breathing) trains your mind to have the same kind of mindful focus on the everyday things in life. Join us at Meditation Reincarnated, and you can learn this ever-so-simple ability. Meditation Reincarnated meets on the fourth Thursday of each month in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. We have interesting and enjoyable discussions, and we practice meditation in a low-key setting. It's for everyone, beginners or otherwise. There is no meeting during June. Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 28.

The Future of YRUU

A Gathering for Teens and Parents

By Rev. Kate Rohde

With changes in Religious Education staffing at First and Second Unitarian Churches, teens and their parents are invited to a gathering to talk about the future of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), our youth group for teens.

The meeting will be held at First Unitarian Church on Wednesday, July 27, at 7 p.m. Current and potential members are invited to come and share ideas.

The meeting will be facilitated by Laura Shennum, former DRE at Second Unitarian Church and currently in her last year at Meadville/Lombard Theological School.

What kinds of things should a Youth Group be doing? What has been meaningful in previous youth group experiences? What would strengthen the experience in future? If you or your son or daughter is not active in YRUU, is there something that would make it of greater interest? What kind of adult leadership, either paid and/or volunteer, would be most helpful?

There will also be an online survey. If you do not have Internet access and would like to be mailed a survey, contact the church office at 402-334-0537 ext. 114 or info@secondunitarianomaha.org.

SAVE THE DATE for the SECOND UNITARIAN 35th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, August 6, at 6 p.m.

Come join the fun at the 35th Anniversary of Second Unitarian Church officially becoming a church. Watch your Wednesday e-news and Order of Service for further details.

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee



Tornado season is upon us again!

What if a severe storm with a possible tornado approaches our area during Sunday church service? Do you know our tornado evacuation plan?

The safest area of the building is in the basement. Go down either north or south stairway. Proceed to the south classrooms area (under the foyer and First Hour areas) and stay away from the east-facing windows because the strong winds could blow debris through them. The windows on the west side are less dangerous because they are protected by window wells. The restrooms, storeroom beyond the women's restroom, and kitchen are also relatively safe areas. Please stay clear of the RE Worship Area and Nursery which have large east-facing windows. Tornado shelter signs are posted as a reminder.

How do we tell a severe storm is close? There is a tornado siren about two blocks away, and we have a weather radio in the kitchen that will sound a loud alarm automatically whenever the National Weather Service issues a weather warning for Douglas County.

-- Building & Grounds Committee



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

July, 2011

- Mon., July 4, **Independence Day**
Church Office Closed
- Tue., July 5, 7 p.m., Fellowship (FH)
- Wed., July 6, 6 p.m., Teen Bowling Event (offsite)
7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)
- Sun., July 10, David Plank's final Sunday with us
- Mon., July 11, 5 p.m., Executive Committee (MO)
7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)
- Tue., July 12, 7 p.m., Committee on Ministry (MO)
- Wed., July 13, 6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (DNW)
- Thu., July 14, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
- Mon., July 18, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
- Thu., July 21, 7 p.m., Music & Worship (offsite)
- Fri., July 22, 6 p.m., Cornerstones Celebration (WH)
- Tue., July 26, 7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)
- Wed., July 27, 7 p.m. YRUU Discussion (offsite)
- Thu., July 28, 7:30 p.m. Meditation (SA)
- Sun., Jul 31 - Fri., Aug. 5, Camp StarTrail (offsite)

Tuesday Lunches at Church are taking a break until fall. Please join us again for lunch beginning Tuesdays in September!

COUNTDOWN TO TWO-SERVICE SUNDAYS

- July 3
- July 10
- July 17
- July 24
- July 31
- August 7
- August 14
- August 21
- August 28
- September 4

SEPTEMBER 11: TWO SERVICES

Regular Events:

- Sundays, 9 a.m., First Hour
- Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service
- Sundays, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments
- Second Sunday, Noon, Getting to Know UU (MO)
- 15th of Every Month: Second Thoughts deadline**

Off for the summer:

- Second Circle, YRUU, Parent Support Group,
- Tuesday Lunches, Choir rehearsal

Coming this fall:

- Two services each Sunday (see page 5)

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)=Küchen,
(MO)=Minister's office: scheduled by Minister only.

Save These Dates Next Month:

- July 31- August 5: Camp StarTrail
- August 6: 35th Anniversary Celebration
- August 19 & 20: Paint-a-Thon
- TBA: Newsletter Focus Group

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

Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister

Office hours by appointment
402-334-0537 ext. 111

minister@secondunitarianomaha.org

Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, Community Minister

communityminister@secondunitarianomaha.org

Director of Religious Education

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@secondunitarianomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator

402-334-0537 ext. 114

info@secondunitarianomaha.org

Music Director

music@secondunitarianomaha.org

Kirsten Stiles, Childcare Coordinator

childcare@secondunitarianomaha.org

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

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Rick Bell, Chair

Caring

Jill Archer, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Richard Koelling, Contact

Communications

Nancy Amsler, Chair

Denominational Connections

Cheri Cody and Tom Peterson, Contacts

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Finance Coordinating Council

Vicki Pratt, Chair

Endowment Fund

Stu Burns, Chair

Fundraising

Darrel Draper, Contact

Stewardship

Clyde Anderson and Sue Aschinger, Co-Chairs

Library

Melissa Konecky, Chair

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

Anita Jeck and Jaime Short, Co-Chairs

Membership

Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Music & Worship

Julie Kirn, Chair

Aesthetics/Second Showing

Dodie Robison and Pam Curtiss-Smith, Contacts

Nominations/Leadership Development

Steve Abraham, Chair

Personnel

Sue Aschinger, Contact

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Pat Caffrey, Chair

Care for the Environment

Julie Carda, Chair

Closing the Economic Gap

Pat Caffrey and 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