



October, 2011

Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Inside this issue:

Minister's Musings	2
Board of Trustees	3
Share the Plate	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Lifespan Religious Education	7
LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation	8
Mindful Eating Recipe	9
Membership	12
Calendar	14
Church Information	15

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Service 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 a.m.

October 2 ***Lives that Speak and Deeds that Beckon*** Rev. Scott McNeill

This Sunday, may each of us come to explore our own ministries, as James Luther Adams called it, the "Prophethood of All Believers." And may we explore why some people do their calling and have for centuries!

4 p.m.

Writing for Spiritual Growth (DNW)

October 9 ***I Come to You With Strange Fire*** Rev. Scott McNeill

On this Sunday before Coming Out Day, we share in an "offering of love" (Amy Ray, Strange Fire). Join us and we explore the many ways we build a strange but beautiful fire to warm our hearts.

October 16 ***Are We Still Looking for the Granfalloon?*** Rev. Kate Rohde

Kurt Vonnegut wrote about how we tend to look for all the little ways in which we are alike, ways which are essentially unimportant, "granfalloons." In a group that likes to pride itself on its acceptance of diversity, are we still looking for the granfalloon?

October 23 ***The Finality of Time*** Rev. Charles S. Stephen, Jr.

With the help of some poets I want to look, with sadness but without fear, at our mortality.

5 p.m. Vespers Service

Shape Note Singing

Lorraine Duggin & Members of FaSoLa Omaha

October 30 ***Spiritual Journeys: Pagan and Earth-Based Spirituality***
Megan McGuire, Shari Busse, and Gypsi Ballard

This Sunday, a few members of our congregation will work together to share parts of their spiritual path and how it relates to Paganism.



Vespers Services
5 p.m. on the
Fourth Sunday
See page 4

Fellowship
Potluck
October 15, 6 p.m.
See page 5

Fall Church
Cleanup
October 8
See page 10

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



It's fall! Aren't you excited? I offer apologies to all of you who absolutely love the spring and summer, but my time of year is here and I am ecstatic. My body's rhythm starts to feel back to normal when the leaves start falling, when the temperature drops, when the pumpkin snacks and apple treats find their way to the store shelves.

And what of your rhythm? When does your body feel most at peace, when does your soul feel whole and happy? I know I am privileged to enjoy the winter; for many people in our world, winter proves difficult emotionally, physically, spiritually. We all have seasons in our lives that speak to us and seasons that make us long for better days, whether those days are full of sun or snow.

As the year winds down, I ask that you pay particular attention to how you feel – emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Maybe you notice that you need an extra cup of coffee, or an extra hug. Maybe your thoughts begin to reflect on days gone by and friends no longer around. Or maybe you are so filled with anticipation that you can hardly stand it! Whatever the case, try to notice where you are and if possible, tell me or others. Let us into your life so that we may share and deepen our connections.

One of the things I love most about fall is that there is particular music that feels “autumn-y” to my ears. To help center myself, I often listen to music of all types. But there is only one season that has its own playlist on my music player – Fall. It's full of guitar and vocals and silence and piano, all sorts of beautiful music to engage me in memory, gratitude, faith, forgiveness, hope.

And so I wonder on this early autumn day, what speaks to you? What are the poems or books or plays that make you feel connected to the world? What are the songs or games or colors that feed your passion, that make you smile, that build fires of contentment in your soul?

I hope over the next few weeks and months that you'll tell me – or better yet, share with me! Let me read the reading, hear the music, see the painting. As we open ourselves up to one another, we create sacred connections. Finding our way past the busy-ness of the moment, we see a glimpse of what the other sees and hears and feels. I encourage you to share not only with me – but with your friends, your family, your beloved, your neighbor, the person down the street. May this fall be a time of sharing, of ourselves and of our passions.

There is so much happening in the world that I find it helpful to attempt to focus on one particular aspect of life each month. This month, our worship theme is death, sometimes a difficult subject. There can be much grief in the loss that death provides, especially when the loss is recent. And yet, I am reminded that in some communities, death is not an end but rather a transition, a time for celebration of the movement from one form to another.

Maybe you've experienced a loss of someone you care about. If so, I invite you to think about: What are the things they held most dear in life? What songs, books, plays did they like? What were their favorite foods or jokes or scents? Let us find the space in our hearts and minds to remember those we love, both living and passed, and to share in our stories so that no one is ever completely gone but that we may all live on in the words, deeds, memories and stories of one another.

In faith,

Rev. Scott McNeill



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Cheri Cody, Chair, Board of Trustees



Fall is here and we are happy to see so many visitors at Sunday services. One of the board's goals this year is to foster community, so we look forward to learning about the lives and interests of our newcomers as well as reconnecting with you. Several committees have already planned special events in the coming months, but we would like to hear if there are ways of connecting that you would like to organize or have organized within the church.

As we work to finish a draft of a vision for the church to present to you for feedback, we also wondered at our retreat if there is a way to create an "elevator" speech for the church in much the same way we might create one for ourselves. For individuals, an "elevator" speech would be a concise description of your religious beliefs and/or how you live those out in the world. The premise is that you would need to be able to say it in the time it takes for a ride in the elevator. It's a challenge to do but you might think about how you would craft your "elevator" speech.

The board will be working on some "tasky" things this year too. We will be reviewing the standing rules and soon a committee will start an in-house financial audit. Richard Baltaro, Don Mundy, and I will work as a committee to do the church audit. The audit is a complicated process and there may be a need for some subcommittees to do short-term work as we move through it. If so, we may call on you to help with one of the short-term projects.

Thanks for all you do and for being part of Second Unitarian Church.



Share the Plate for October: *Justice for Our Neighbors*

One half of the offering on October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 will be given to the local **Justice For Our Neighbors** office.

Justice For Our Neighbors-Nebraska is a faith-driven ministry that welcomes immigrants by providing free immigration legal services, education, and advocacy. JFON was founded by the United Methodist Committee on Relief as a response to complex immigration regulations. JFON-Nebraska has volunteer attorneys as well as paid staff.

JFON clinic sites in Columbus and Omaha offer low-income immigrants a safe place where they can seek legal assistance. The number of people subject to removal in Nebraska is 3 times higher than the rest of the country. JFON prioritizes their caseload to give priority to these people, so has to turn away many non-emergency clients. Of the 5,500 people processed through the Nebraska area Immigration Court, 3,000 do not have legal representation. Studies show detainees who have legal representation are 6 times more likely to win their case and be able to stay in the U.S.

JFON connects to Second Unitarian's mission statement of sharing a world community that embraces diversity and justice. Outreach to JFON carries out an action for the current UUA Study/Action Issue, "Immigration as a Moral Issue."

For more information please contact Vicki Pratt.

If you would like to nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, visit our website or contact Pat Caffrey or Rev. Scott.



Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church

Treasurer's Report

Month End for August 31, 2011

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$31,001.08

reflects 19.78% of \$156,747.00 Total Pledged for 2011-12.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$11,113.02	\$32,614.41
Expenses	<u>-\$12,731.02</u>	<u>-\$24,201.29</u>
Net Over/Short	<u>\$ -1,618.00</u>	<u>\$ 8,413.12</u>

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

Thank you!

Treasurer

Pat Caffrey

Stewardship Task Force

By Clyde Anderson, chair

The mission of the Stewardship Task Force is to support the mission of Second Unitarian Church by promoting an attitude of cheerful giving and encouraging each member to contribute money, material, and time according to their ability.

We now have a Finance Coordinating Council (FCC) chaired by Vicki Pratt that replaces the old Finance Committee. The Stewardship Task Force is one of the three finance-related committees reporting to the FCC.

Stewardship at Second Unitarian must be a year-long activity, not just the Spring Pledge Drive. Our goal is to make stewardship fun. The Fundraising Task Force sets a wonderful example to follow, and UUA publications like *Beyond Fundraising* provide a lot of helpful ideas. We also plan to visit stewardship leaders at First Unitarian and Lincoln Unitarian to exchange knowledge and experiences.

Stewardship welcomes new members Carol Johnson and Joel Haskins. I want to thank Kathy Bell, Stu Burns, and Marcia Leise, who are retiring from the Task Force, for their outstanding service to Stewardship. We will likely be consulting with you as we take over the vital roles you played in last year's canvass campaign.

If you are interested in working with us to support this stewardship mission, please contact Clyde Anderson.

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

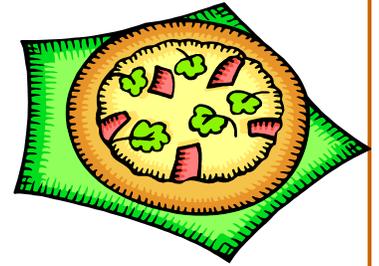
Sunday, October 23, 5 p.m.: Join Lorraine Duggin other members of FaSoLa Omaha Shape-Note singers for our second Vespers service. In October, we will create worship by learning about and practicing Shape-Note Singing! Come make a joyful noise!

Sunday, November 27, 5 p.m.: Join us for our third Vespers program. On this night, we will have storytellers engaging us in stories about Wonder as we head into the holiday season. It'll be a great worship that focuses our spirits on the Wonder of the world; we hope to see you there!

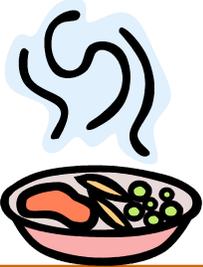


Join us for a **Fall Fun Fellowship Potluck,** **Saturday, October 15, 6 p.m. at Second Unitarian Church.**

Bring a dish to share, bring your family, bring your fall spirit!



This is a family event, so no alcohol, please.



This event is sponsored by the Fellowship Committee:

Dodie Robison, Laura Neece-Baltaro, Nancy

Saunders, Nancy Amsler, Judy Eller, Janet Nichols, and Betty Segell.

CORNERSTONES: Earth-Centered Celebration

Saturday, October 29, 6 - 9 p.m.

Come join us for a fun evening to celebrate the fall season and learn more about Earth Centered Religions.

All ages are welcome! **Saturday, October 29, 6-9 p.m.** Dinner will served! RSVP to Jaime Short.

This Cornerstone Event is brought to you by the Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning Committee.

Community Partners

As the church year begins, we thought it might be helpful to delineate the various groups that Second Unitarian Church of Omaha works with.

Omaha Together One Community - A congregation-based community organization, OTOC brings together people of different faiths, cultures, and experiences and strives to make a difference in our city through community organizing. For more information, please contact Pat Caffrey, Cheri Cody, or any of our strong OTOC leaders.

Neighbors United - Though Second Unitarian is not a downtown church, we work with Neighbors United to provide a community meal once every few months. For more, see this month's Share the Plate article.

Prairie Lane Neighborhood Association - As we strive to be good neighbors through our presence, we have sent leaders to the Prairie Lane Neighborhood Association meetings. We hope to strengthen our connections through relationships with individuals, congregations, and through our growing community garden.

Inclusive Communities - This organization provided a workshop on understanding difference and identity in 2010 and then invited us to join their "Faith in Action" program, joining seven other faith communities in working on building understanding of diversity. We hope to work with Inclusive Communities more in the future.

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 on first Thursdays at 7 p.m. and third Saturdays at 11 a.m. each month, starting **October 6 & 15**. 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! Starting on **October 11**, Second Unitarian Church of Omaha will be hosting a small, monthly group to discuss issues facing those who have retired and for fellowship. This group's first meeting is at 1 p.m. at Second Unitarian, immediately following the weekly "Lunch @ the Church" on Tuesdays (noon-1 p.m.). Join us in October as we begin to plan our activities for the year!

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 at minister@secondunitarianomaha.org.



We are proud to announce that **Donna Zebolsky** has been selected as our new Music Director and she has graciously agreed!

We have been lucky to share in Donna's musical talent over the past couple of years and this new partnership will allow us to learn more from her, as well as see her lead our choir (starting the first week of October!).

If you would like to sing with the Second Unitarian Choir, please email Donna at music@secondunitarianomaha.org!

Donna has a lifetime of musical experience with many instruments and several other churches, so we look forward to her work with us. When you have a moment, please welcome Donna to our congregation.

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

Child Guides

We still have openings for people interested in helping out with the kids. We still need a few more teachers as well as several assistants. Please contact either Jodi or Kirsten at dre@secondunitarianomaha.org to see about getting signed up.

What We Will Be Learning This Month

Nursery 6 weeks – 3 years: The color for this month is orange like pumpkins. In the nursery they will explore the fall season, leaves and the sound they make, and how they fall off the trees when it starts to get cold outside.

Pre-K, K & 1st Grade Class: We have feet, we have hands, and we can move all of them. We will have homemade warm playdough that they can stick their little toes into and wiggle them around to make their very own little keepsake footprint.

2nd - 6th Grade Class: Just how connected are we? A question we look to answer in new and unusual places. We will start Gems of Goodness. Parents will hear more about this throughout the month of October. They will soon be able to recognize acts of good in their everyday life, from the interaction of others around them or acts they do themselves.

Making a Difference

Midmonth will feature a special guest! Every four weeks we will invite a member of our congregation to share with the kids what knowledge they have which makes a difference in one way or another. It could be your job, say a firefighter, who makes a huge difference. It could be your hobbies or a special talent. Both can make big differences in many ways to many different people. I invite you to come be a part of "Making a Difference." Consider nominating someone else or even yourself. We are still searching for our October Guest! If you are interested and would like more information, contact Jodi or Kirsten at dre@secondunitarianomaha.org.

Trick Or Treat!

Safety tips to remember when you go out Halloween Night

1. Never go alone. Always have a responsible adult that you can see at all times.
2. Do NOT go into any house without a parent!
3. Do remember not to eat or taste your treats until you get home so Mom and Dad can check it. P.S. Mom & Dad, this is your chance to snag up your favorites!
4. Don't forget your flashlight, a glow stick or even a piece of reflective clothing! They will allow drivers to see your child crossing the street.
5. Choose your costume wisely! Parents can ensure the costume does not block their vision or become a possible tripping hazard! Test your costume by going up and down steps or doing the Hokey Pokey. That's always fun!
6. Dress appropriately for the weather. Make sure the child's costume fits over warm clothes. Layers are useful here!



LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee

By Tammy Hunter



Monthly Meeting Change

In October, we'll be meeting on the first Friday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We're exploring possible alternate meeting times, so please join us and let your preference be known!

Author's Chair - Dessert and Book Signing

What happens when adults ask teenagers what is going on in their lives and then really listen to the answers? Once the teens trust that the adults are sincere and accepting, this book is what can happen.

Written by two classes of seniors at Omaha South High Magnet School, with the support of 29 volunteer writing mentors, this collection of personal essays reveals some of the issues American teens face every day but often keep to themselves. These insightful students share experiences of survival, the reasons for their dreams and their secret hopes for their lives.

This book, entitled *In My Shoes: Teen Reflections on Hope and the Future*, was produced by The Omaha Young Writers Project using the philosophies of the Freedom Writers and 826 Valencia as inspiration and guidance. The book includes a foreword by Erin Gruwell, teacher of the Freedom Writers; an afterword from the classroom teacher; Ferial Pearson's perspective; and an epilogue by Gallup Senior Scientist in Residence, Shane J. Lopez, on how we can all spread hope to kids and our communities.

Join the Welcoming Congregation Committee at **6:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 9**, in the First Hour area, for dessert and for a book signing event at which some of the teenage authors of the book, along with their mentors, will read their stories, answer questions, sign your books, and perhaps inspire you to become a driving force in a young person's life. Books will be available for \$17 and all proceeds go to Omaha South High Magnet School for guest speakers and literary events.

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

October 9 Social Justice Movie Night to Be Rescheduled

On October 9, we'll be postponing our previously scheduled Social Justice Movie Night in order to host the teen authors of *In My Shoes: Teen Reflections on Hope and the Future*. (See the article above for details.) We plan to feature the previously-scheduled documentary, "Stonewall Uprising," at a future Social Justice Movie Night. Please watch the newsletter for updates.

Interfaith National Coming Out Day Rally

On Tuesday, October 11, (National Coming Out Day), First United Methodist Church will host an interfaith rally, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on their front lawn.

The speaker will be Jimmy Creech, former senior minister of that church, who was stripped of his ministerial credentials in 1999 for defying a United Methodist Church law prohibiting him from conducting same sex union services.



MINDFUL EATING RECIPE FOR OCTOBER: ROASTED SWEET POTATOES WITH SWISS CHARD

by Marcia Leise



To make this recipe, layer organic Swiss chard, which has been steamed with a little diced shallot and sliced crimini mushrooms, over roasted organic sweet potatoes. Drizzle with dressing prepared from juice of an organic lemon, 1/2 tsp. ginger, garlic, 1 T. tamari, 1 T. olive oil, salt and pepper. Place a fried or poached organic egg over greens.

Mindful eating includes foods that are nutritious for our bodies, and are selected with concern for farm workers, animals and the environment.

The sweet potatoes in this recipe are a great source of beta-carotene, which is a powerful antioxidant, protecting the cells of the body from damage caused by free radicals. Beta-carotene can be converted into vitamin A by the body, which helps to preserve eyesight and fight off viral infections. Swiss chard is also an excellent source of beta-carotene. In addition it provides lots of vitamins C and E, which help protect cells from free radical damage. These foods have lots of antioxidants which are heart-healthy and anti-aging. Select organic vegetables to avoid pesticide exposure to workers, the environment as well as ourselves. Choose organic eggs to lessen exposure to antibiotics, synthetic hormones and pesticides, and to ensure humane treatment of chickens.

Join the Mindful Eating group at Second Unitarian on Thursday, October 13, at 6:00 p.m., to share good food and conversation.

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



Fall Church Cleanup - Saturday, October 8

By Tom Rundquist & Clyde Anderson, Co-Chairs – Building & Grounds



Our **Fall Church Cleanup** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 8, from 8 a.m. to noon**. There will be plenty of tasks for everyone! If you don't believe us, check out this [List of Tasks](http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/forms/B&G_Task_List.PDF) on the church website! [http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/forms/B&G_Task_List.PDF]

Our experienced volunteers will assist the novices, so don't worry about lacking skills. However, please wear suitable shoes (no sandals or flip-flops, please) and bring work gloves. Wear work clothes appropriate for the weather (for working outdoors) and painting. Feel free to bring tools if you wish, but the B&G Committee members will arrange to have a supply of tools and materials available.

As always, we'll have refreshments available beginning at 8 a.m. in the church foyer.

Children are welcome with adult supervision. They usually enjoy helping with some of the lighter garden chores.

Please note the event on your calendar, and we hope many of you can help, even for just a few hours. For more information, call or email Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist.



Special Notice!

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!



Have you noticed the new signs to direct people to Second Unitarian Church? Directional signs have been placed by the City at the entrances to Westwood Lane on both West Center Road and on 120th Street. They are clear and should help visitors find us. Thanks to all who made these happen!



Photo by Clyde Anderson

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

Each Sunday you are greeted with a warm smile as one of the people at the door of the sanctuary hands you an order-of-service. And, on occasion, our greeters may gently remind you to put your nametag on. Others staff the welcome desk to make sure visitors receive a warm welcome and answers to any questions they might have. We now have 22 people who take their turn once a month greeting members, friends and visitors. **Many thanks** to the following people for doing their part to make Second Unitarian Church a friendly, welcoming community.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Lynn Alsman | Vija Kopecky |
| Sana Amoura-Patterson | Cy Leise |
| Stu Burns | Marcia Leise |
| Cheri Cody | David Martin |
| Frank Daman | Megan McGuire |
| JoAnne Draper | Don Mundy |
| Al Harrison | Stephanie Peterson |
| Joel Haskins | Tom Peterson |
| Kathie Haskins | Shirley Rundquist |
| Julie Homan | Tom Rundquist |
| Gene Kopecky | Becky Scherbring |

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
8/28	81	4	8	--
9/4	101	<i>Intergenerational</i>		--
9/11	114	5	14	--
9/18	82	6	10	9
9/25	87	7	7	--

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.

Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Each month a group of church members and friends of the church meet to learn and practice the art of meditation. We study the writings of accomplished meditators and discuss how to apply these teachings in our own lives.

We are now studying the book *Taking The Leap* by Pema Chodron. Meditation Reincarnated meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 27. Please join us in learning what can become a very fulfilling practice in your life. It's a wonderful way to learn relaxation skills and to grow spiritually. No previous meditative experience is required.

The Fellowship Committee is looking for **Coffee Associates** to help either set up and/or clean up after coffee. Consider signing up for a 20-minute slot of either set-up or clean-up. We will have a sign-up sheet by the "treats" table in the sanctuary. Setup will start each Sunday at 8:45, and cleanup will start at 11:10. You will be shown the ropes and assisted by a current coffee maker. This is a great way to get to know people, and is also a benefit to the church community! Please sign up for one or two Sundays.



Women's Alliance

By Ellen Shurson

Women's Alliance meets **Monday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church. Our featured speaker will be Beth Conover. Her topic will be Genetic Counseling, an overview of clinical genetics including pediatric, prenatal, cancer, teratogens, and direct-to-consumer testing.

Beth is a pediatric nurse practitioner and provides genetic consultation in General Genetics Clinic, Prenatal Clinic, and the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Clinic at University of Nebraska Medical Center. She also directs the Nebraska Teratology Information Service which provides patients and health care providers with information on which medications are safe to use in pregnant and breastfeeding women. Beth is a life-long Unitarian Universalist.

Our dinner (\$10) will be our Soup & Salad bar. This has become an October tradition. If this is your first time, please be our guest.

Reservations must be made no later than Friday, October 7. to Janet West.



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

October, 2011

Sat., Oct. 1, 8:45 a.m., Pathways to Membership (FH)
10 a.m., Audit Committee (DNW)

Sun., Oct. 2, Book Sale (Outdoors/Foyer)
4 p.m., Writing for Spiritual Growth (DNW)

Mon., Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Fellowship Committee (FH)

Tue., Oct. 4, 7 p.m., Religious Growth & Learning (FH)

Wed., Oct. 5, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)

Thu., Oct. 6, 7 p.m., ASN's Autism Caregivers (SA)

Fri., Oct. 7, 7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Group (DNW)

Sat., Oct. 8, 8 a.m., Fall Church Cleanup (WH)

Sun., Oct. 9, 12:45 p.m., Lunch for Newcomers (DNW)
6:30 p.m., Dessert & Book Signing (WH)

Mon., Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m., Women's Alliance (offsite)
7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)

Tue., Oct. 11, 1 p.m., Retirees Group (FH)
7 p.m. Stewardship Task Force (DN)

Wed., Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (DNW)
7:30 p.m., Holland Lecture (offsite)

Thu., Oct. 13, 6 p.m., Mindful Eating (DNW)
7 p.m., Board of Trustees (FH)

Sat., Oct. 15, 11 a.m., ASN's Autism Caregivers (SA)
6 p.m. Fall Potluck (WH)

Mon., Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
7 p.m., Advertising Advisory Council (DNW)

Tue., Oct. 18, 1 p.m., Communications Committee (DNW)
5 p.m., Caring Committee (FH)
7 p.m., Membership (FH)

Thu., Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Music & Worship (offsite)

Sun., Oct. 23, 5 p.m., Vespers Service (SA)

Tue., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)

Thu., Oct. 27, 7 p.m., Endowment Committee (DNW)
7:30 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated, SA

Sat., Oct. 29, 6 p.m., Cornerstones: Earth-Centered Celebration
(WH)

Regular Events:

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., Worship Service
Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments
First & Third Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Second Circle
Tuesdays, 12 noon, Lunch @ Church
Wednesdays, 7 p.m., YRUU (at First Unitarian)

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:

November 3 & 19 : ASN's Autism Caregivers
November 6: Daylight Savings Time ends
November 8: Retiree's Group
November 10: Mindful Eating
November 24: Thanksgiving Day

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

Jodi Wangsness, Director of Religious Education

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@secondunitarianomaha.org

Kirsten Stiles, R.E. & Childcare Coordinator

402-334-0537 ext. 112

childcare@secondunitarianomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator

402-334-0537 ext. 114

info@secondunitarianomaha.org

Donna Zebolsky, Music Director

music@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

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