



Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

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Join Us This Sunday!
Worship Services 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 a.m.

January 1 (New Year's Day we will have only one service at 11:30 a.m.)
Creating Justice Pat Caffrey
We encourage you all to be safe for the New Year and rest well, and then show up for worship at 11:30 a.m. This Sunday, our worship will focus on the role of justice in our spiritual lives, as the theme of the month is Justice.

January 8 **Finding Our Greatness: Justice** Rev. Scott McNeill
This winter, Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is using the phrase "Find Our Greatness" to encourage each of us to examine the areas where we excel. This Sunday, we look at Justice – and our commitment to transform the world.

January 15 **Love Can Change the World** Rev. Scott McNeill
As we take this weekend and celebrate the work and life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., let us remember that we have the power to change the world around us, and the responsibility to do the good work.

4:00 p.m. **Forum: "Full Circle" Estate Planning**

January 22 **Seeking Justice** Guest speakers to be announced
Today's topic will be about seeking justice in our lives and our communities.

12:45 p.m. **Forum: UUA Social Justice Issues**

January 29 **Hard Times** Rev. Scott McNeill
This Sunday, join us in worship as we dig into the idea of depression and sadness and how we can find holiness within them and how we can find a way through those difficult emotions in due time.

4:00 p.m. **Forum: The Hour Exchange Program**



Sing for Your Supper

Saturday
January 21
6 p.m.
(see page 5)

Introducing
FULL CIRCLE
The Future of a Great Church
Sunday
January 15
12:45 p.m.
(see page 11)

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



I've spent much of the last few months reading about ministry in multicultural settings – how worship, education, pastoral care are affected when one intentionally creates a multicultural ministry. My head has been swirling – with the possibilities as well as the perils. One of the most useful readings that I have found has been a lecture from the Reverend Rob Hardies, of All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D.C.

Rob asks, "Are We Willing to be Changed by What We Started?" (Found at: <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/188510.shtml>)

At his congregation in D.C., they have decided to become an intentionally multiracial, multicultural congregation that celebrates and emphasizes diversity – diversity of race, class, ethnicity, ability, gender and sexual identities and expressions of gender. This intentional diversity creates a church community so expansive, it begins to feel like the images of heaven we all hear about.

Yet, in order to create this congregation where *All Souls* are welcomed and embraced, they understood they had to make intentional changes to their church. Rob's advice, which is shared by other leaders of multicultural ministries, is to "Put the vision at the center and measure the progress."

As part of their transformation to a truly Beloved Community, All Souls asks itself (and encourages us to ask ourselves):

- With whom are you in relationship and solidarity?
- Who's on your staff?
- Who's up front in the pulpit?
- What are you singing? And how?
- What stories are you telling?

At the end of his lecture, Rev. Hardies says, "We stand for a commanding and transforming love that embraces all souls." This, my church community, is why I think we ought to look at our congregation and decide to create a ministry that is intentionally multicultural.

In our world, there are many people who long for a religious home that offers more than blind faith and more than division and separation. Many of us are here at Second Unitarian because we stand for a transforming love that embraces all souls – and we want to share that message with others. And yet the difficulty is that in order for this message to be truly effective, we must be willing to be changed by what we started.

Often, we go to church looking for comfort, looking for solace, looking for ourselves. Creating a ministry that is intentionally multicultural means that we will be in relationship with people from different backgrounds, with different life experiences. Richer and poorer, louder and softer, stronger and weaker – all sorts of different people will share our pews and our sanctuary. A multicultural ministry does not mean one in which we lose our culture – it means one where we lift up cultures different than our own.

The purpose, the call of a multicultural ministry is not simply to have more people, or to look diverse to any casual observer. As Rev. Hardies points out, "You'd be surprised, when you ask them, of the hidden diversity in your congregation. We are more diverse than we think, if we allow people to share that with us." No, the purpose of this intentionally multicultural ministry is to create a vision and a community of a world so inclusive, so broad that it includes the meaningful stories and experiences of all people – not a particular subgroup.

Unitarian Universalism spoke to each and every person who has joined this church – and often our members feel as though it saved them and empowered them to live a religious life that represented their authentic selves. And now we are called to share that religion with all of the people of the world so that they, too, might feel that compassion and love and transformation.

May it be so,

Rev. Scott



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Cheri Cody, Chair, Board of Trustees



We're at the start of another wonderful new year. This month the board members will be getting a refresher webinar on board responsibilities. This webinar, as well as others on various topics, are a collaborative effort of three UUA regions: Prairie Star (our district), Heartland, and Central Midwest. Stay tuned for more information about how this collaboration will transition into a more formal regional structure – good news for all of our congregations who benefit from district programs and resources.

Later in January, Prairie Star District Executive, Nancy Heege, will be in Omaha to work with board members on the newest approaches for long range planning. The board has been working on a vision for what we, as a congregation, want to be in the world. We are almost ready to present that vision to the congregation for your thoughts and reactions. Having a common vision is essential to moving ahead with any future planning, especially if that includes a different building.

The board would also like to keep you up to date on the other issues that come before us so we will be posting the minutes from our meetings on the bulletin board in the foyer. Plus, we will post the monthly balance sheet and income/ expense statement which we receive from our treasurer extraordinaire, Pat Caffrey. When you see Pat, please thank her for her expertise and her dedication. The treasurer's job takes several hours every month and is a great gift to the church. Pat does a recap of the previous month's financials in the newsletter, but if you like to see the details, you now have that opportunity.

Here's to 2012. *L'chaim!* See you in church.



Share the Plate for January: Together, Inc. of Omaha

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in January will go to Together, Inc. of Omaha. Together, Inc. (togetheromaha.org) is a local non-profit, homelessness prevention agency. Together, Inc. assists people in need by providing services, education to inspire change, and collaboration to sustain that change. Clients are working families, single parents, and others in the Omaha area who struggle to put food on the table. Together, Inc. provides boxes of food, counseling for social services, help with rent payments, bus tickets to work, and computer access for resumes and email. They also make referrals for specialized help.

Unlike other programs that provide housing/rental assistance Together, Inc. offers help with repairs to allow people to remain in their home. They also can provide help with paying utility bills, clothing, and furniture.

Together, Inc. does not turn anyone away. In 2010 they provided more than 57,000 services to more than 25,000 residents of the Omaha area. Financial donations to Together, Inc. are crucial in this time of cutbacks and restrictions on government funding.

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 November 30, 2011**

Thank you for your generosity and stewardship! Happy New Year!!

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$66,903.58
reflects 42.68% of \$156,747.00 Total Pledged for 2011-12.

New Pledge Income/Current Year: \$168.00
received of New Pledges for \$1,965.00 for 2011-12.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$14,460.38	\$72,567.98
Expenses	-\$12,475.93	-\$65,197.44
Net Over/Short	<u>\$ 1,984.45</u>	<u>\$ 7,370.54</u>

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

Thank you!
Treasurer
Pat Caffrey

Stewardship Update - *Find Our Greatness*

By Carol Johnson & Vicki Pratt

The theme for Second Unitarian's 2012-13 Stewardship Campaign is *Find Our Greatness*. The theme has been chosen to inspire us to let the light of liberal religion spread throughout our community—to be a “beacon of hope” to many more people.

To build our community within, stewardship conversations will be conducted via house meetings rather than one-on-one conversations with a visiting steward. A house meeting is a small group of congregants meeting in someone's living room to talk about how Second Unitarian has enriched our lives and helped us grow spiritually. A member of the Stewardship Committee will introduce goals for the upcoming church year, show how your monetary contributions are used for church operations and programming, and provide guidelines for thinking about your contribution for next year. House meetings will take place between February 26 and March 18.

After the house meeting, you are asked to fill out a pledge form for next year. Pledges should be submitted by March 25 to allow time for the Finance Committee and Board to prepare the budget to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in May.

We anticipate needing space for 10 house meetings to be held at various times and days. If you are willing to host a house meeting please contact Clyde Anderson.

Be watching for details about the *Find Our Greatness* kickoff event scheduled for February 25. Save this date for an event filled with fun, fellowship, food, and family-friendly activities!

GET READY!

**Sing For Your Supper
is
Saturday, January 21, 2012
6 p.m.**

We need people who enjoy a good show! We need performers! We need people who want to have fun! We need appetites! We need soup and desserts!

The annual Sing For Your Supper is Saturday, January 21, at 6 p.m.

Please bring a soup or dessert. Fellowship will provide breads and non-alcoholic drinks. The dinner is for the entire family. BYOB with responsibility as children will be attending. Childcare will be provided downstairs for children up to 6th grade from 7 to 9 p.m.

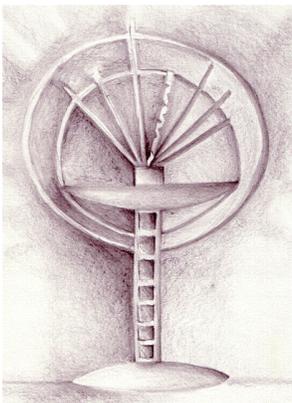
Performers will have five minute time slots. You can sign up that night for your time preference. Questions? Contact Janet Nichols or Betty Segell

Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Do you have an interest in having a more positive affect on other peoples' lives? Meditation Reincarnated has begun a new focus as we take a unique look at Buddhism. We are learning how to use Buddhist philosophy in our everyday interactions with people. We are learning how to apply Buddhist philosophy to help other people and ourselves as well. What a great way to make the world a better place! And, of course, we will practice meditation as well. Everyone is welcome.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in the sanctuary. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 26, at 7:40 p.m. No previous meditation experience or Buddhist background is necessary. Please join us!



New Church Directory Coming Soon Please Update Your Info!

The Membership Committee is busy checking with Second Unitarian members and affiliates to update information for the Church Directory. If your contact or family information has changed since last January, please contact the church office at 402-334-0537 or info@secondunitarianomaha.org with your changes.

Looking to Make Friends?

"No More Time Cards" -- Retirees Group

Our retirees group is going strong and we are encouraging anyone else who would like to join (feel free to invite people who are outside Second Unitarian Church, too)! Topics have included humor and how retirement doesn't always equal not working! We're open to new topics and information, and the group is made up of a vibrant crew of folks! We look forward to seeing you at 1 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 10** (the second Tuesday of each month) at Second Unitarian, immediately following the weekly "Lunch @ the Church" at noon.

Pagan/Earth-Based Spirituality Affinity Group

November launched the Pagan/Earth-Based Spirituality Affinity Group. If you missed the previous meetings, we would love to welcome you to the next meeting in January. It's scheduled for **Monday, January 23** (the fourth Monday of each month). Please email Rev. Scott if you'd like to connect with the group in any way, so that we can communicate with you!

Small Group Ministry

Second Unitarian is hosting a Covenant Group on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 6 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Covenant Groups are small discussion groups (7-10 people) that are facilitated by a trained leader. Covenant Groups start each meeting with a short check-in and then delve into theological discussion topics, ethical questions, or general themes like hope and humor in religion. Covenant Groups give us a chance to connect with people we don't know as well as those we know but could know deeper. The format of a 90-minute, regular meeting allows for these connections to be made and kept. Although there are times that covenant group members experience very deep issues and have to process them, covenant groups are not meant to be support groups or social groups. They do build relationships and connections that last beyond the group's one year tenure. After a year, groups change members so you get to learn from and share with new people (don't worry - this doesn't take away friends - it increases them!). Please let Rev. Scott know -- minister@secondunitarianomaha.org -- if you're interested in joining this group.

We are pleased to announce that **Kirsten Stiles has become our Director of Religious Growth and Learning**. Kirsten has worked at Second Unitarian since May 2011 and has consistently proven her talent and dedication at the jobs she's held. We are lucky to have her passion and creativity as we strive to strengthen and build our Religious Education program.

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, Director of Religious Growth & Learning

Have you made your New Year resolution yet for this year? Worried you might not be able to keep it? Is it the same as last year? Why not make a resolution you would be more likely to keep? Find a resolution that holds Unitarian Universalist principles and shares one of your many passions or talents. Become the memory in young UU minds as they proceed into adulthood with the memories of the learning experience you shared during Sunday morning Religious Education classes. Come learn with us! We only ask for one Sunday and one service of your time to light that flame in a child's eye. Contact Kirsten for more info: dre@seconduitarianomaha.org or 402-334-0537, ext. 112.

This January, our Second through Sixth Graders will become *Watchdogs for Justice!* If you want to know more, we invite you to come see for yourself. On **January 29** they will have an "unfair snack." This is sure to be an interesting experience for all! Make sure your Second through Sixth Grader is there!

On **February 12**, we invite everyone to bring a friend. Big or small we invite them all! Friendship and Valentines, then enjoy a special surprise with your guest or guests!

The Hour Exchange: Unmet Needs and Unused Resources

By Jill Archer, from the Caring Committee



When life became difficult for my aging mother, the neighbors responded. They mowed her lawn and shoveled snow. Mom had made comforters for them and had watched their kids. These connections enriched everyone's lives. The process of connecting was natural and almost easy, but it isn't always that way.

This was a topic in Caring Committee meetings: *There are painful unmet needs that others would be happy to meet if they only knew! How do we make connections?*

After one discussion, Rev. Scott gave me the name of church member Don Mundy. Don had viewed a segment about Service Exchanges on "Fixing the Future" on PBS and was excited about the concept.

Don told me about HourWorld, a service exchange group. **Service exchanges, or hour exchanges, match needs and resources.** Members exchange hours of service time, e.g. teaching, housework, medical care, transportation, furnace repair, etc. This can create great socio-economic power that benefits the elderly, low income groups and immigrants. Also, the hour exchanges are not taxed!

That connection generated another: The folks at HourWorld were traveling across the country to meet with hour exchanges and agreed to meet with us! A week later, Don, Tina LaBellarte, and I were eating spaghetti with them. They exchanged their expert knowledge for a night's lodging and spoke of houses that were built and friendships made through the power of hour exchanges. They told us the next step is to meet and share the excitement.

Here's that next step: **Join us Sunday, January 29, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary for a Forum about our own Hour Exchange.** If you are interested in learning more, please come to listen and share.

For more information about hour (or service) exchanges, visit the Boulder County Service Exchange at <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/servexchange/>

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

Sunday, January 22, 5 p.m.: *Our Joys and Sorrows* - this worship service will encourage us to look at those things in our lives that deeply move us. This Sunday evening, we will center our thoughts on those joys and sorrows we have heard and that have been written and we will offer our compassion to those who need it.

Sunday, February 26, 5 p.m.: *A Celebration of Music!* Bring any instrument you have, or just come to hear the beautiful sounds we can make with our hearts. During this worship, we will have different people share their musical talents with us and we encourage you to do the same. Vespers is on the Fourth Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. – it's a different style of worship meant to encourage reflection during the evening. We hope to see you in February as we make joyful noises!

2012 Merritt Scholarship

The Women's Alliance **Merritt Scholarship Committee** is accepting applications for its scholarship until **February 1, 2012**. To be eligible to receive the scholarship, the applicant must be a member of either First or Second Unitarian Churches or a dependent of a member. The applicant may be planning to attend a two-year college, a four-year college, graduate school, or professional school in the Fall of 2012. **The application is available from either church office:**

Questions should be directed to:

First Unitarian Church of Omaha
Attn: Merritt Scholarship Committee
3114 Harney Street
Omaha, NE 68131

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.



LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee

By Tammy Hunter

Support the Extension of Employment Protections To All Omahans

The Omaha City Council will again consider amending the city's employment non-discrimination ordinance to include gender identity and expression and sexual orientation. Council member Ben Gray will reintroduce the amendment on Tuesday, January 24. Public comments will be heard at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 31, beginning at 2 p.m. Voting is scheduled to take place at the Council meeting on Tuesday, February 7, at 2 p.m.

Action is needed now! Please inform your City Council representative of your support for the amendment and let him or her know why this is important to you. You can find out who your Councilperson is and obtain contact information by calling 402-444-5520.

If your schedule allows, plan to attend the Council meetings on January 31 and/or February 7 to show your support.

Thank you for participating in this important effort to make Omaha a more just and welcoming place to live and work.

Building & Grounds

By Clyde Anderson, Co-Chair

Interior Maintenance the Focus of Church Cleanup

Thanks for all volunteer assistance with the Interior Church Work Day on December 10. Examples of the work accomplished:

- Installed communications cables to support conversion of the nursery to the church office
- Applied plastic to the minister's office windows to help provide a barrier to the cold
- Cleaned interior windows and spot-cleaned chairs in the sanctuary
- Sanded the DRE's file cabinet and applied the first coat of paint
- Replaced light bulbs and checked smoke alarms
- Inventoried and measured windows missing storm windows to research replacements
- Pruned the tree in the sanctuary

It wouldn't have been possible without our volunteers: Mike Brockman, Bill Kuhn, David Johnson, Tom Peterson, Vicki Pratt, Tom & Shirley Rundquist, and Clyde Anderson. Pam Curtiss-Smith and Dodie Robison decorated the sanctuary for the holiday season.

Managing Snow & Ice at Church

When it snows, our contractor clears the parking lot for Sunday services. Other days of the week, he plows the snow within 48 hours of the end of the storm. Therefore, the parking lot may not be cleared for a non-Sunday meeting. You can call Dan or Kelly Hanneman, who live across the street from the church, to check on the condition of the parking lot.

This winter these members have volunteered to clear the church entrance and sidewalks: Dan & Kelly Hanneman, Bill Kuhn, Nancy VanderSluis, and Tom Peterson. In the church foyer by the coat rack are snow shovels, salt, and sand.

When conditions are icy, it can be difficult entering the church parking lot via the north driveway. Avoid this problem by entering via the south driveway.



In the Cold of Winter... Think about the Community Garden

By Vicki Pratt, Care for Environment Committee



Thinking about fresh vegetables is a great way to forget about winter's chilly blasts. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, January 28**. Anyone who wants a garden plot or has ideas for our organic Community Garden is welcome to meet at **10 a.m.** at church.

Our garden is on the north side of the church. Each plot is about 2 feet by 4 feet – big enough for a few tomato plants, peppers, lettuce, cabbages, pole beans, herbs, or hill cucumbers. We had all of these plus flowers, pumpkins, and cantaloupes in our 2011 garden. Watering is easy with a soaker hose under each plot. Gardeners sign up for a week to turn on the water to all plots if it doesn't rain.

Major responsibilities for each gardener include pulling weeds and picking produce when ripe. The neighborhood patrol cat, Ashley, chases away rabbits.

Plots are assigned on first come, first served basis. If you want a plot but cannot attend the meeting, notify Vicki Pratt. \$10 for each plot helps defray costs for water and supplies. Other expenses are paid from the Social Action Fund. This money comes from sales of fair trade coffees, teas, and chocolates. Gardeners buy their own seeds. We have some shared tools and plan a couple of group work days to prepare and close down the garden.

Immigration as a Moral Issue / Social Justice Movie Night

By Carol Johnson

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly selected "Immigration as a Moral Issue" to be the 2010-2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

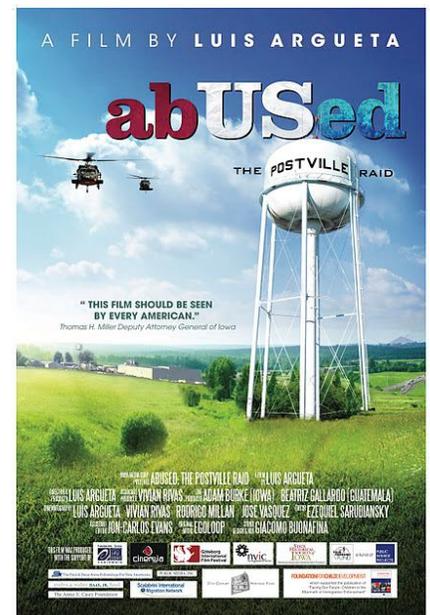
The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and confront it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it and take action —each in their own way.

Beginning the first week of February, the six-week study curriculum prepared by the UUA will be offered at Second Unitarian Church. **On January 29, the course will "kick off" with a documentary entitled "abUSed: The Postville Raids."** This Social Justice Movie Night will include a potluck dinner if you choose to participate. Watch for details in the order of service and in your weekly email.

The course will be held three Sundays in February and three in March from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the church. Topics for each session are:

- February 5 *Understanding the Causes of (Im)migration*
- February 12 *The History of (Im)migration in the U.S.*
- February 19 *Economic Pressures Around (Im)migration*
- March 4 *Security, Enforcement and Human Rights*
- March 11 *Who Benefits From a Broken System?*
- March 18 *Seeking Solutions*

You need not attend all sessions; however, there is reading preparation for each session, so please pre-register for the sessions of your choice so that materials can be sent to you. For questions and/or to sign up for sessions, please contact Carol Johnson.





Full Circle: Estate Planning, Planned Giving, and the Future of a Great Church

By Stu Burns, Chair, Endowment Committee

To meet their life goals, individuals and families need a well-considered estate plan. For a church to meet its goals, it needs a healthy financial endowment to provide investment collateral and principal for sustainable growth.

One of the best ways to build a church's endowment is through planned giving. The Endowment Committee will be hosting an Estate Planning and Planned Giving workshop on **Sunday, January 15, 2012 at 4 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

This forum will be led by Don Mundy, a member of our church and a financial professional with thirty-eight years experience. We will also be introducing **Full Circle**, our new honorary association for members and affiliates who make the church part of their estate plan.

Please join us on the 15th to hear all about it over coffee, punch, and pie.

If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Pratt, Joel Haskins, or Stu Burns.

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.

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

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Second Unitarian Church?

We invite all who are interested in membership to participate in our next **“Pathways to Membership” class on Saturday, January 14, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

After a tasty breakfast, you will learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and of this church, be given the opportunity to share a few words with each other about your religious journeys, hear about our ministries, and learn about the benefits and expectations of church membership. Although there is no pressure to do so, some find this a meaningful time to sign the Membership Book. We will wrap up the morning with lunch and fellowship with several church leaders.

RSVP: Please reserve your spot in class by contacting Kathy Bell by Sunday, January 8. Please indicate if you will need childcare when you sign up for the class.



- 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



Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
11/27	62	8	5	--
12/4	74	11	16	4
12/11	87	10	15	--
12/18	84	<i>Intergenerational Service</i>		
12/24	70	<i>Family Friendly Service</i>		
12/24	41	<i>Candlelight Service</i>		

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

Second Unitarian's Vote on Study Action Issues

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Coordinating Council

Second Unitarian participates in the Unitarian Universalists Association's Social Witness process. This is how our denomination arrives at consensus on articulating our position on major issues. It's called the Social Witness process because we, as congregations, as well as the national office, call attention to social and economic inequities.

Congregations mark their ballot to place up to five issues on the General Assembly agenda for voting by delegates. Delegates select one of the five as the new Study/Action Issue. After three years of congregational study and feedback, the Commission on Social Witness drafts a Statement of Conscience and actions. The Statement of Conscience is our position on the issue.

Congregations then mark their ballot for whether to place the wording for this Statement of Conscience on the General Assembly agenda. Delegates vote whether to adopt the Statement of Conscience.

For the balloting to be valid, 25% of congregations must participate in the voting process. Second Unitarian will decide how to fill out our ballot during a **Forum on Sunday, January 22, at 12:45 p.m.**

Come to find out about these proposals for the 2012 Study/Action issue and participate in the voting for how to fill out our ballot:

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plans
- Ending Slavery
- Exploring Class Barriers
- Families, Population, and the Environment
- Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

By Rev. Scott McNeill



Starting in January, Second Unitarian is privileged to be hosting YRUU. For years, the program has met at both locations and this month, they will return to Second Unitarian on Wednesday nights for the January-May 2012 semester. We look forward to having their energy fill the space at Second Unitarian!

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!



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

January, 2012

Sun., Jan. 1, 6 p.m., Covenant Group (SA)
Mon., Jan. 2, 7 p.m., Executive Committee, (offsite)
7 p.m., Fellowship Committee (FH)
Tue., Jan. 3, 7 p.m., Hungry for Change (DNW)
Wed., Jan. 4, 7 p.m., Social Justice Coordinating Council (DNW)
Thu., Jan. 5, 6 p.m., Audit Committee (DNW)
Sun., Jan. 8, 12:45 p.m., Lunch for Newcomers (DNW)
Mon., Jan. 9, 7 p.m. LGBTQ Welcoming (DNW)
7 p.m., OTOC Steering Committee (offsite)
Tue., Jan. 10, 1 p.m., Retirees Group (FH)
6 p.m., Committee on Ministry/Burks (FH)
6:30 p.m., Stewardship Task Force (DNW)
6:30 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DN)
Wed., Jan. 11, 6 p.m. YRUU begins at Second Unitarian (dnstairs)
6:30 p.m. Finance Coordinating Council (FH)
Thu., Jan. 12, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
Sat., Jan. 14, 8:45 a.m., Pathways to Membership (FH)
Sun., Jan. 15-Mon., Jan. 16, YRUU Overnight (offsite)
Sun., Jan. 15, 6 p.m., Covenant Group (SA)
Mon., Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Church Office Closed
6:30 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
Tue., Jan. 17, 5 p.m., Caring Committee (FH)
6:30 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DNW)
7 p.m., Membership Committee (FH)
Thu., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., Music & Worship (DNW)
Sat., Jan. 21, 6 p.m., Sing for Your Supper (WH)
Sun., Jan. 22, 5 p.m., Vespers Service (SA)
Mon., Jan. 23, 7 p.m., Earth- Based Spirituality (FH)
Tue., Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m., Stewardship Task Force (DNW)
7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)
Wed., Jan. 25, 7 p.m., Marketing Advisory Council (FH)
Thu., Jan. 26, 7:40 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)
Sat., Jan. 28, 10 a.m., Community Garden, (DNW)
Sun., Jan. 29, 6 p.m., Social Justice Movie Night (WH)
Mon., Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Executive Committee (offsite)
Tue., Jan. 31, 1 p.m., Communications Committee (DNW)

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., Young Religious Unitarian Universalists
Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal

15th of Every Month: *Second Thoughts* deadline

Calendar Codes:

RE=Religious Education, (FH)=First Hour Area, (SA)=Sanctuary, (DN)=Downstairs Classroom, (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:

February 4: Program Council

February 5: Immigration as a Moral Issue

February 11: Visionary Donor Event

February 18: Transgender Support Group

February 25: Stewardship Kickoff Event

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

Kirsten Stiles, Director Religious Growth & Learning

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@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

Audit Committee

Richard Baltaro, Chair

Building and Grounds

Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

Caring

Dodie Robison, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Richard Koelling, Contact

Communications

Nancy Amsler, Chair

Fellowship

Janet Nichols & Betty Segell, Co-Chairs

Finance Coordinating Council

Vicki Pratt, Chair

Endowment Fund

Stu Burns, Chair

Fundraising

Chris Peters & Stephanie Peterson, Co-Chairs

Stewardship

Clyde Anderson, Chair

Library

Melissa Konecky, Chair

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

Jaime Short & Kelly Hanneman, Co-Chairs

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