



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

May, 2013

Join Us This Sunday!

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

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

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 19
1 pm
see page 4

Adult Education/Discussion

Wednesday, May 20
see page 9

Pathways to Membership Class

Saturday, June 1
see page 14

The May Worship Theme is *Truth*

May 5

Will Science Rule Out God? - AGAIN!

Rev. Scott McNeill

Twice, Rev. Scott has wanted to preach this sermon. Twice, the fates (or whatever) have conspired to cancel it. Will May 5 bring a freak snowstorm? If not, come hear: Humanity created stories to help figure out the meaning behind everything in existence, due to our inability to simply surrender to the grandiose world we live in. Now that we are learning more through science, will God have a place in life? Rev. Scott tries to "eff the ineffable."

May 12

Does Wisdom Come with Age?

Rev. Brian Eslinger

I always thought that at a certain age I'd gain wisdom. Reaching one of those milestones gave me the incentive to reflect on just what 'wisdom' might be and how much of it I have actually accumulated.

May 19

Listening is Louder than a Shout

Rev. Scott McNeill

Often times, we try to win arguments by shouting or telling, rather than listening or collaborating. At times, though it seems counter-intuitive, letting go can help us succeed more so than trying to control. This Sunday's worship invites us to create a more beautiful and just world, together.

2013 Annual Meeting follows the 11:30 service.

May 26

Through the Ages

Rev. Kathy Riegelman

Our lives are built upon the foundations set by elders and ancestors who have come before us. On this Memorial Day weekend, we reflect on the wisdom gained from ages past, and how each generation leaves a legacy for the next.

***The next newsletter will be a combined June-July issue.
There will be no July newsletter. Please plan ahead as you write
articles about activities in June and July. Thank you!***



Minister's Musings

By Rev. Scott McNeill



In 2004, Second Unitarian adopted a long-range plan to focus the work of the church and to be intentional about growing our congregation. In that plan, we affirmed that growth was more than about worship attendance numbers, or how many members we had. Here are the four types of growth presented in Loren Mead's book, *More Than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow*. The types of growth we aspire to are:

- Numerical – relating to church membership, attendance, budget, and activities.
- Maturation – relating to how each member grows in stature, maturity, faith, and ability to nurture and be nurtured.
- Organic – relating to how the congregation grows as a functioning community and its ability to maintain itself and reach out to work with other institutions in the community.
- Incarnational – relating to the ability of the congregation to take its values and beliefs and make them real in the world and society outside of the congregation – living out the faith traditions in the community.

It's almost a decade later, and we're still growing our church. There are many successes we can point to, and as is the case with any organization, we still hope to achieve more. In historical terms, we're a fairly young congregation (founded in 1976), and yet we have already moved through a couple of buildings and grown to two Sunday morning services. We have institutionalized policies, and worked to create an identity and focus of our congregation so that we can work together to accomplish great things!

Now, we hope to focus our attention on maturational growth and incarnational growth – meaning we want people to find opportunities to develop their faith and take it into the community around us. Simply put, “to nurture and be nurtured.”

In order to do this, we need members to work with the staff and leadership to create a church where we are not satisfied with the status quo, but where we agree that our lives are always about “Moving Forward.” We need people to attend small groups, to lead and plan learning and growth opportunities, and to continue exploring their faith and the history and mission of our church. Transformation is a key part of our mission, because all of us are called to grow and change ourselves, and to help the world grow and change.

I firmly believe that churches that are healthy and functional, where people are growing maturationally and the institution is growing organically and incarnationally, are churches where numerical growth will happen. But that can be hard. Often, we want our community to stay the same so that we have one thing in the world that seems stable and unchanging.

The truth is that the illusion of stability is dangled over our heads constantly; nothing is ever the same because time and experience alter every moment. The Second Unitarian Church of 2013 is both different and the same as the Second Unitarian Church of 2004, of 1976, or of 2026. I know that transformation is difficult – I'm not asking us to deny the difficulty or frustrating aspect of change, or the fear that comes with it.

All we can do to address our fear of change is to work together to actively create the world we seek. Join me in ministering to one another. Call a friend, attend a function, take a class. Help sustain a liberal religious community that will be here for generations to come; and, when those new people walk in the door, may we offer the space for them to lead and change our church just as we have led and changed it for the better.

In faith,
Rev. Scott



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Nancy VanderSluis Chair, Board of Trustees



Today I'm feeling a bit like I am back in the days from my college years. I want to enjoy the beauty of the warm spring weather and spend time just relaxing, but there is that final test or paper that has to be completed. The distractions of spring have to wait a bit longer because there is still work to be done.

Although the church year is nearing its end, the duties of the church and your board are not complete. We are making the arrangements needed to prepare for the Annual Meeting being held this month on Sunday, May 19, after the second service. A lot of work goes into getting everything ready for this meeting. As members of this democratic faith tradition, please do your part by attending this important event so you can contribute your voice and vote.

I am so thankful to the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee, who have diligently worked through the winter to select excellent people who have accepted their nomination to serve us all. Please read the biographies in this newsletter or in the Annual Report to learn more about your fellow congregants whom you will be voting on to fill the positions on the Board, the Endowment Committee and the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee.

I want to lead the entire congregation in a standing ovation for Clyde Anderson and the Finance Committee for another year of work to carry out a very well-organized and executed Stewardship Campaign. Now we pick up the job of writing a 2013-2014 Budget to present to the Congregation for approval. As I write this, we have not been able to finalize a budget that is true to our Unitarian Universalist principles, and the work continues.

There is still work to be done, but many hands make light work. And in joining our hands together, we join our hearts into one beloved community. And that's the most important accomplishment of all!

Nancy



Share the Plate for May: Project Harmony

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in May will go to Project Harmony.

Project Harmony exists to provide effective, immediate, and sensitive support to children who are victims or suspected victims of abuse and neglect, and to their non-offending family members. A child-centered facility, Project Harmony assembles a multidisciplinary team composed of law enforcement, investigative, social service, medical, and referral professionals dedicated to protecting children and prosecuting offenders. The purpose of the center is to enhance the communication among professionals by co-housing in one facility: Project Harmony, the Omaha Police Department-Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit, and Nebraska Health and Human Services-Child Protection Services. www.projectharmony.com

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 March 31, 2013

YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year: \$6,457.45
received of New Pledges for \$10,620.00 for 2012-13.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	March	Year-To-Date
Income	\$20,302.51	\$160,626.98
Expenses	-\$16,100.78	-\$145,088.27
Net Over/Short	\$ 4,201.73	\$ 15,538.71

Contribution Statements for contributions made from 07/01/2012 through 03/31/2013 will be emailed to those that receive email and mailed to those without email.

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

Thank you!

Treasurer
Pat Caffrey

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$130,387.29

reflects 77.72% of \$167,758.00 Total Pledged for 2012-13.

NOTICE OF SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 19, 1:00 p.m.

Major Agenda Items:

- Nominations for Board and Committees
- 2013-14 Operating Budget
- Delegates to General Assembly

Childcare available

Absentee ballots are available by contacting Bill Kuhn.

COFFEE CHATS AT CHURCH



Interested in having more time to get to know others from church? Have questions you'd like to ask (or answers you'd like to give)?

We'll have snacks and beverages to offer as people gather together for fun and conversation.

On **Wednesday, May 8, at 7 p.m.**, our Coffee Chat will focus on evaluating the church's ministry (lay and professional).

Join us to talk with each other about our successes and our areas for growth!

On Wednesday, June 12, we will host another Coffee Chat – another opportunity to fellowship together!



Nominations for the May 19 Annual Meeting

*By Sue Aschinger, Carol Johnson, and Richard Koelling,
Nominations and Leadership Development Committee*

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is pleased to present an outstanding slate of candidates for the Board, Endowment, and Nominations committees. Members will vote for the candidates in our upcoming May Annual Congregational Meeting. Following are short biographies and a few thoughts from each of the candidates. We also want to recognize those members who have served in these important roles and will be passing on the responsibilities to the following candidates:

Board of Trustees

Gay Abraham

Since becoming a member of Second Unitarian in 2004, my understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist has been in the process of continual expansion. My committee and leadership experience in the church has centered primarily with working toward intergenerational connections and developing and refining our covenant.

I have been a member Religious Education/RGL since joining the church and was co-chair for two years. I served on the Personnel Committee, participating in refining policies and procedures, interviewing and hiring staff, and in assisting with staff evaluations. When my son became a teenager, the church did not have a Sunday morning program for his age group, so I chose to put my energy toward developing Second Circle (named by them), which offered options for teens to be involved in church life, including small group experience and opportunities for connections with adults and children. I have enjoyed working with the teens for the past seven years.

I was involved with the entire process of developing our current covenant during the interim ministry of Rev. Nancy Haley. From there, I went on to serve for the past three years on the Committee on Ministry, continuing to work with the congregation to deepen our understanding of our covenant and also participating in evaluations of the ministries of both the minister and the congregation.

I am grateful for the relationships I have at 2U and for this opportunity to develop my ministry by building new skills. I look forward to learning about the governing aspect of church life. As our church grows to hopefully become even more diverse and copes with upcoming changes, I will bring my commitment to deepening our living of the covenant, and creating a vibrant intergenerational community.

Craig Piquette

I have been a member of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha since 1999 when I joined, along with my wife, Nancy VanderSluis, but I feel I have been a Unitarian most of my adult life. Shortly after I joined the church, I was asked to join the Building and Grounds Committee and have since served on the Board, Finance Committee and for a time as chair, the 2004 Long-Range Planning Committee, the Transitions Team during interim ministry, the Committee on Ministry and most recently on the Strategic Planning Committee.

I am deeply committed to the life of this church and will continue to work to help us grow, not only as an organization but also in the church's influence in the greater community. In order for us to accomplish this, we must work together to strengthen our commitment, promote the engagement of all members and friends in the ministry of the church and look outward to connect with those in need and to support the work of our denomination here and around the world. For those who feel the task is too great, as Margaret Mead has said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

(continued next page)



(NOMINATIONS, continued from previous page)

Stephanie Peterson

Stephanie Peterson is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. She has been a member of Second Unitarian since 2001, and has served one previous term on the Board. Stephanie and her partner Tom Peterson joined the congregation of All Souls Church in Tulsa, OK, as young parents in 1989. Stephanie briefly served All Souls as their first paid Director of Religious Education. She relocated to Lincoln with her family in 1996, and joined the congregation of the Lincoln Unitarian Church before settling back in her home town of Omaha in 2000.

Stephanie has volunteered at the national level as a trainer of facilitators for the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program. She has worked at the district level as a supporter of programs for youth. At Second Unitarian, she has served on ministerial search committees, facilitated covenant groups and Our Whole Lives for Adults, worked as the board liaison to Religious Growth and Learning, and co-chaired the Fundraising Committee. She is currently active on the Strategic Planning Committee and on Rev. Sarah Gettie's Committee on Ministry.

Endowment

Phil Dudley

I was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Hastings for several years. We moved to Omaha from Hastings in June 2011 and my wife, Donna Dudley, and I became members at Second Unitarian that year. I have three grown children Phil III, Peter, Paul and a granddaughter, Sloane Rae (born 1/29/2012).

I hold the following degrees:

BA in Mathematics – Southwestern College in Winfield, KS

MA in Economics – Wichita State University in Kansas

PhD in Economics – University of Nebraska Lincoln

I have spent my career in College Education and Administration:

Instructor in Economics and Mathematics at Doane College in Crete, NE. Professor of Economics at Hastings College in Hastings, NE, where I also served as an assistant football coach. Served as President of Hastings College-retired as President in 2011. Currently, President Emeritus of Hastings College. I am involved in advancement work and alumni relations for the Hastings College Foundation located in Omaha.

I have reviewed the purpose of the Endowment fund and agree with its two basic principles. 1) The endowment must surpass \$250,000 before any funds can be allocated from it 2) Distributions cannot be used to fund the annual operating budget. I look forward to serving on this important committee.

Nominations & Leadership Development

Tom Peterson

I have been a member of Second Unitarian since 2002, having previously been a member of UU congregations in Lincoln, NE, and Tulsa, OK. Since joining 2U, I have served on the Building and Grounds Committee, Technology Committee (past chair), Board of Trustees (past secretary, vice-chair, and chair), and am presently chair of Music and Worship Associates, as well as serving on the ad-hoc Building Search Committee, a visiting steward, and a member of the choir. I have a deep interest in the future of Second Unitarian, and am dedicated to working with all of our members to enlist their talents in carrying out our mission.



Stewardship Campaign

By Clyde Anderson, Stewardship Task Force



Hearts & Hands Stewardship Campaign – Almost Done! Now It's Time to Budget

On March 24, our annual pledge drive ended and the Budget Team* wants to update everyone on our progress. Our congregation has a history of incredible generosity. This year is no different. As of April 25 we had 86 pledge units pledging a total of \$176,506. We exceeded the pledge total for last year, but missed our current goal of \$185,000. We are just over 95% towards our goal!

Many people are contributing significantly and with a generous spirit. We are extremely thankful that people pledge 3%, 6%, even 10% of their income – it is what keeps our ministry alive and thriving, offering Omaha a hopeful, vibrant religious community!

We provide excellent programming through the work of our volunteers and staff. Our commitment is to provide for programs that further the mission of the church and to pay our staff fair wages. However, our pledge income isn't enough to uphold this commitment. With an already tight budget in place, there are few areas that can be trimmed back to even out our budget.

With a substantial difference between our projected income and our projected expenses (about \$5,200), the Budget Team will need to look at opportunities to raise income and cut expenses to present a balanced 2013-2014 Budget to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19.

Help make our task easier! If you have not pledged yet or if you are willing to increase your pledge, please consider doing so by May 10.

You can view the Proposed 2013-2014 Budget on the church website at <http://www.2uomaha.org/governing-documents> and click on Proposed Annual Budget 2013-2014.

* - Budget Team members: Nancy VanderSluis, Rev. Scott McNeill, Joel Haskins, JoAnne Draper, Cheri Cody, Pat Caffrey, and Clyde Anderson.

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.



Strategic Planning Committee

By Craig Piquette

What unifies us as a religious community? Do we identify ourselves as Unitarian-Universalists, and what does that mean? If we are committed to the church, what are we committed to?

These are some of the questions we must answer if we are to grow as a religious community. Unless we grow, we will become like the stately oak which loses branches with each storm, eventually becomes hollowed out, and finally blows down. If we value our community, wouldn't we want to keep that from happening?

The church -- like that tree or any other organism -- needs growth to survive, and in order to grow, must be nurtured. Our organism needs to search out new sources of energy while revitalizing the old growth. We must hold fast to our values but incorporate new rituals. We must tap all forms of spirituality that will provide strength to our religious community.

Through this we will *achieve vibrant worship, empower religious education, and demonstrate commitment to social justice advocacy, witness, and action. We will come together to care for one another, developing, maintaining, and celebrating healthy, covenantal relationships while challenging ourselves and others to do and be more. We will enrich our lives by weaving together our personal experiences, theologies, and practices into one larger tapestry.* These phrases are what form the goals of our new strategic plan.

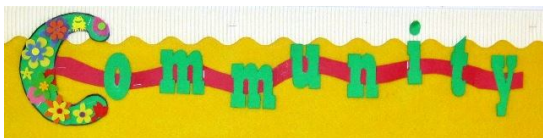
Our task force is in the process of putting meat on the bones of the strategic plan italicized above, but the 'meat' must be actionable, achievable, and affirmed by the entire congregation. We expect the plan to be completed in the next few months and come up for a vote in the fall.

The plan will certainly challenge us to do and be more, but it will require an "all in" mentality that what we do, we do together as a religious community. We will need to adhere to our covenant during those times when we feel the community is changing around us and we feel a "disconnect."

The plan will build a case for a new facility, but that will require us to build a strong, vibrant organizational foundation upon which the new facility can be built. A new facility will not happen in six months, but we will not be wandering in the wilderness for thirty years either.

We have accomplished much since our last strategic plan in 2004, and we are a lot closer to the ideals of the religious community we wanted to become then. It is said *we drink from wells we did not dig* and, if so, isn't it time we all grabbed a shovel?

If you have a special talent, please tell us and share it. Although not required, if everyone pledged, even a small amount, we could fund programs that would attract those who would want to join us on our journey. With renewed energy and a commitment of time, talent, and treasure, our destination is just around the bend.



A **Community News bulletin board** is now available! If you have information about non-religious events, the bulletin board **above the piano in the RE area** is available for that purpose. Please date and sign your postings. They will be left up for 2 weeks.

The next newsletter will be a combined June-July issue.

There will be no July newsletter.

Please plan ahead as you write articles about activities in June and July.



Adult Education/Discussion In May

By Rev Scott McNeill

Please join us for an upcoming Adult Religious Education discussion. This sessions will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29. **Register by emailing Rev. Scott at minister@2uomaha.org.**

May 29: "A Rainbow of Experiences - Exploring Identity in Unitarian Universalism"

With the help of Naomi Solomon and Scott McNeill, we will discuss how UUism became what it is. It's due in large part to different parts of identity politics and progress - feminism, people with disabilities, people who are bisexual, lesbian or gay, people who are trans or genderqueer, and we'll discuss how race and class fit into it all. We hope that anyone attending arrives with an open mind and an open ear to hear new experiences and challenge their old assumptions.

Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

At the March meeting of Meditation Reincarnated, we learned about the practice of letting go from Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. In his book You Are Here, Thich Nhat Hanh writes, "If there are things that are causing you to suffer, you have to know how to let go of them. Happiness can be attained by letting go, including letting go of your ideas about happiness. You imagine that certain conditions are necessary to your happiness, but deep looking will reveal to you that those notions are the very things standing in the way of happiness and are making you suffer."

The group Meditation Reincarnated is studying this book in our monthly meetings. We learn about and practice meditation in the church downstairs on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m. Our next meeting is May 23. Both the book and our meditation practice are designed for everyone, whether monk or beginner. No previous meditation experience is necessary, so please come and check us out. At the May 23 meeting we will discuss chapter 6 of You Are Here.

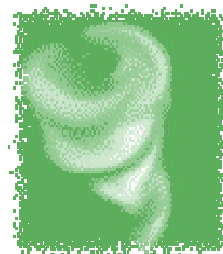
Tornado season is upon us again!

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 library areas) and stay away from the larger 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 downstairs worship area and church office which have large east-facing windows. Tornado shelter signs are posted as a reminder.

How do we tell if 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





Library Committee

By Pete Miller

Boruff Book of the Month: A Selection from the Macyl Boruff Memorial Library

The Macyl Boruff Memorial Library is proud to announce the arrival of The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks by Jeanne Theoharis.

This highly praised book brings to life a woman who was so much more than a footnote in our epic journey towards equality for all. Please check out and enjoy this fascinating and inspirational book, which *Publishers Weekly* calls "a lavishly well-documented study."

Retirees' Group

By Richard Koelling

The Retirees' Group will meet at the church at **1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14**, with a significant issue to ponder.

Dementia is something we all fear, maybe mostly because we don't know what it really is. Julie Kirn will be our leader to share her knowledge about dementia, and she assures me it won't get technical or bogged down on a single issue.

The dimensions of dementia, how to recognize it in other people and/or yourself, and how to work with people who suffer from it in one degree or another will be facets in this discussion. Please attend the meeting and learn the whats and hows of the problem.

Blackstone Book Club

By Gwen Eurich

The Blackstone Book Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at the church. We welcome anyone, whether new members, old members, or visitors wishing to attend any discussion of our book selections. These selections include a wide variety of authors and may be either fiction or nonfiction.

The selection for **Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.**, is Trek by Mary Hunt Jentsch. This is the true story of an American woman and her two children who were caught in Germany during World War II. Contact Gwen Eurich if you would like further information.

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!



Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

By Kirsten Stiles, Director of Religious Growth & Learning



The best kind of presents one can give is that of one's own presence. We can all relate to harder times in life for one reason or another. We learn ways to get through as we start to develop an understanding of what is dearly important when making any kind of headway in such situations.

I am surrounded by big flashing neon with this thought of being present and the powers it holds. Our presence matters to many people throughout our lives. How we are present doesn't matter quite so much, but just being present matters a lot. A friend's mother often sends me random inspirational quotes once a day or so. I can't explain how they arrive at the most perfect of times and with a message that fits that very moment, almost as if she were right next to me in that very moment. With that, I remind you to be present with those around you.

R.E. Volunteers of 2012-2013

The month of May is filled with beauty. Surrounded by its presence brings a reminder of what beautiful presents surround our children on Sunday mornings. I find it ever so appropriate that we give recognition to the Religious Education Volunteers of 2012-2013. These folks make our children's Sunday morning program possible. These people nurture our children's growing curiosities of life. Your child will look back and remember them later in life. It is what these people bring to the children that will last a lifetime.

Please take the time to stop and tell them *thank you* for being such a dedicated piece in our web. The children of today without a doubt hold the future of tomorrow. I can't think of a better place to find more positive mentors other than within our very own church family. With great honor I give you this year's spotlighted R.E. Volunteers: **Anita Jeck, Anita Meyer, Pete Miller, Rachel Yamamoto, Chris Peters, Joe White, Maya Smith, Jaime Short, Meg Quintana, Pam Curtiss-Smith, Susan Milner, and Elena McArdle.**

Toolbox of Faith

We will be learning about the mirror during the month of May. The mirror represents reflection. The mirror represents times when Unitarian Universalists listen to their hearts and nurture their spirits. We listen to the still, small voice which is inside us when we reflect. Unitarian Universalism is a faith that values each person's path of questioning and searching for truth. This is a key part of growing in faith and deepening in religious understanding. One of the sources of our faith comes from each person's sense of mystery and awe — a sense we can exercise in ourselves through reflection.

May Family Service Learning Project

Look for an email with information on the upcoming Family Service Learning Project for May. To make sure you are on the email list, please send a message requesting to be included. Put "LIST FSLP" in the subject line and send it to dre@2uomaha.org.

Over the summer months we will offer Religious Education classes only at the 9:30 a.m. service. We will have childcare available for all ages during the 11:30 a.m. service. Please feel free to direct any questions you might have to dre@2uomaha.org.

Kirsten



Be Sure to Follow Building Lock-up Procedure

By Clyde Anderson, Building & Grounds Co-Chair

There have been several reports recently where no one was present but church lights were left on. If you are the last one to leave the building, please be sure to follow the Lock-up Procedure that is posted next to each exit:

- Close Windows
- Turn Off Lights
- Make sure all exterior doors are locked including the double doors in the RE worship area. To lock the new keypad-entry locks, be sure the thumb-turn knob on the inside of the lock is in the horizontal position.
- After locking the front door, pull on the handle to be sure the door is latched and secure.

If you are part of a group leaving the church after a meeting or event, make sure there is a clear understanding who is taking responsibility for locking up.

Thank you!

Second Circle Teen Movie & Discussion

By Anita Jeck

The May Second Circle Teen Movie and Discussion is **Sunday, May 19, 4 – 7 p.m.**

Teens are invited to the third Sunday of every month for a movie, discussion, and pizza. Younger youth who will be entering junior high next fall are also invited! We are very fortunate to have Omaha World-Herald movie critic, Bob Fischbach, work with our teens on movie ideas and topics.

Here are some of the topics we plan to explore via movies in the coming months: drugs, fights at school, LGBTQ issues, self-identity, the impact of personal family issues and dynamics, the conflict between values imparted at home and the real world, the masks we wear, race issues. Parents should be aware that at times, they may need to make a decision as to whether a movie is appropriate for their youth. R rated movies will require very specific parental permission.

The movie for May is "The Other Son," the story of two young men, one Israeli and one Palestinian, that discover they were switched at birth (PG-13).

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

By Naomi Solomon, Youth Programming Coordinator

The YRUU school year is coming to an end. Advisors and youth have mentioned over and over how much they miss those of you out there who have been too busy to come out Wednesday nights. Our one last hurrah for this year will be on **Wednesday, May 15, at Spaghetti Works in the Old Market at 7 p.m.** We hope you can take the night off from your extracurricular commitments in order to enjoy some food and fun with your friends and peers from both churches. Please bring \$10 if you can, to help offset the cost of your food, and youth group funds will take care of the rest.





OTOC Candidates Accountability Session

By Vicki Pratt

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) presents a Mayor and City Council Candidates' Accountability Session, **Monday, May 6, at 7 p.m.**, at St. Pius Catholic Parish Hall, 70th and Blondo

The May 14 elections for Omaha Mayor and City Council are fast approaching. To be informed about candidate positions on issues that impact quality of life in Omaha, please attend this event.

All final candidates have been invited; attending as of press time:

- Mayor:** Jim Suttle (Jean Stothert declined the invitation)
- District 1:** Pete Festersen, Ed Truemper
- District 2:** Ben Gray (No response from Tariq Al Amin)
- District 3:** Chris Jerram, J.R. Jasso
- District 4:** (Gary Gernandt declined the invitation, no response from Virgil J. Patlan)
- District 5:** (No response from Rich Pahls or Jeff Moor)
- District 6:** (No response from Franklin Thompson or Phil Klein)
- District 7:** Aimee Melton, Tim Lonergan

Find out where these candidates stand on immigrant rights; training for Omaha Police Officers; job training and placement; revitalizing neighborhoods; and summer programs for youth.

Second Unitarian at Omaha Peace & Justice Expo

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee

You are invited to the Omaha Peace and Justice Expo, **Wednesday, May 1**. Booths open at 6 p.m. and the keynote speaker is at 7. The location is the UNO Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom. Suggested donation is \$5. Info: www.peaceexpo.org

The keynote speaker is Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CodePink and author of *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. CodePink is a grassroots peace and social justice movement that works to end U.S. funded wars.

Ms. Benjamin is a former nutritionist with the United Nations. She has been advocating for social justice for more than 30 years. In 2010 she received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize from the Fellowship of Reconciliation. She will discuss how our government's use of drones impacts civilians and our national security.

Second Unitarian is hosting a booth highlighting our Sixth Principle, to build a fair and peaceful world.

You can help! Chat with attendees who visit our booth. Contact Vicki Pratt.



Fifth Anniversary Year of Camp StarTrail

July 28 - August 2, 2013 • Ashland, NE

The 2013 theme: Poetry and Justice

This year's featured speaker is **Rev. Meg Riley**, Senior Minister, Church of the Larger Fellowship, a 3,500 member Unitarian Universalist Church Without Walls.

Located midway between Lincoln and Omaha, Camp StarTrail is the perfect get-away. A combination of retreat, conference, and camp, StarTrail has something for everyone; writing groups, book discussions, crafts, children's programming, music, swimming, and as much free-time as you might like.

Accommodations range from hotel-style rooms to tenting in the meadow.

www.psduua.org/Camps/CampStarTrail

Shop at Amazon.com and Help Second Unitarian Church

Your online purchases can help the church! Here's how: Visit the church website at www.2Uomaha.org, under Quick Links click on Books, and then click on the link for Amazon.com. *Up to five percent of your purchase will be donated to the church.* What a great and painless way to shop and help the church at the same time!

- 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

Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Membership Committee Chair

Pathways to Membership Class on June 1

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, June 1, 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 about your religious journeys with each other, hear about our ministries, and learn about the benefits and expectations of church membership. Some find this a meaningful time to become a member so an opportunity to sign the Membership Book will be provided at the end of the class. We will wrap up the morning with lunch and fellowship with several church leaders.

If you're interested, please reserve a seat in class by contacting Katie Tessin at membership@2uomaha.org by Sunday, May 26. Please indicate if you will need childcare when you sign up for the class.

(continued on next page)



Most church communications are sent via email. 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 of Omaha
3012 South 119th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68144
402-334-0537
www.2Uomaha.org

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Family Service Learning
3/31	80	<i>Service Learning</i>		41
4/7	58	7	4	--
4/14	88	5	6	--
4/21	82	5	6	--

Staff

Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister

Office hours by appointment
402-334-0537 ext. 111
minister@2Uomaha.org

Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill, Affiliated Community Minister

communityminister@2Uomaha.org

Kirsten Stiles, Director Religious Growth & Learning

402-334-0537 ext. 112
dre@2Uomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator

402-334-0537 ext. 114
info@2Uomaha.org

Donna Zebolsky, Music Director

music@2Uomaha.org

Katie Tessin, Membership Coordinator

membership@2uomaha.org

Naomi Solomon, Youth Programming Director

YRUU@2Uomaha.org

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

The next newsletter will be a combined June-July issue.

There will be no July newsletter.

Please plan ahead as you write articles about activities in June and July.

(MEMBERSHIP JOURNEYS, continued from previous page)

Time to Pass the Baton

It has been a pleasure serving as Second Unitarian's volunteer Membership Coordinator for the past two years.

This role has given me the opportunity to greet many people as they have walked through our doors for the very first time. And what a privilege it has been to hear the heartfelt stories of these fellow seekers at our monthly Newcomers Lunches and our Pathways to Membership classes. It has been especially gratifying to watch people transform from hesitant guests to members, as it becomes clear to them they have found a spiritual home that's right for them. Each time I am reminded of the good feelings my family felt when we found this church.

Now it is time to pass the baton to your new Membership Coordinator, Katie Tessin. Having worked with Katie for only a short time, I can already see she possesses an abundance of energy and thoughtfulness. I hope you all will lend your support to Katie as she takes on this new and exciting role!

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

Adopted May 20, 2012