



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

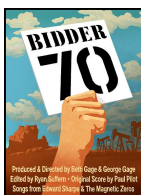
Second Thoughts

August, 2013

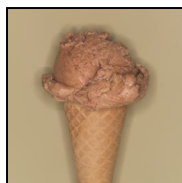
Join Us This Sunday!

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

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



**Social Justice
Movie Night**
Sunday, August 11
see page 11



Ice Cream Social
Sunday, September 1
see page 7

- August 4 Rev. Steven Protzman - **Religious But Not Spiritual**
The phrase "spiritual but not religious" has become a popular catchphrase in our culture. "Spiritual" now tends to mean fierce individualism while the word religion comes from the Latin religare which means to bind together. Guest speaker Rev. Steven Protzman, the UU minister in Iowa City, will explore what it means to be spiritual and religious and how both call us to lead lives of meaning and service as part of a sacred community.
- August 11 Rev. Scott - **Unitarian Universalism Is a Really Long Name**
Truer words couldn't be spoken; our faith has a *long* name. So what do the words mean, and who are we beneath the label? Rev. Scott will encourage us to ask questions, share stories, and get to the heart of our faith.
- August 18 Rev. Scott - **What Do I Stand for?**
For many, the song "Some Nights" by fun. is an anthem, a rallying cry in a world of doubt and frustration. How do we make sense of the world when it's confusing? How do we feel confident when everything is in question? Join us in worship as we look to stand **together**, even when we stand for different ideas.
- August 25 Music & Worship - **The Education of God: Job**
Join Louisa Foster and Chris Peters as they offer the story and lessons of Job through the entertaining and reflective story in The Education of God.
- Coming September 1 - **Water Communion & Ice Cream Social**
Remember to gather water on your summer travels and bring your water on September 1 in a ritual where we all touch water and connect to the Holy. And don't miss the ice cream at 10:30 between the two services!



Minister's Musings

By Rev. Scott McNeill



A verse in the Hebrew Bible reminds us that we “drink from wells we did not dig.”

This is a fundamental part of Unitarian Universalism – the idea that we benefit from the work of generations gone before; and, that the work we do, the world we create will benefit the generations still to come.

While some faith communities are based primarily on a culture or a tradition held up by families, Unitarian Universalists are a people who willingly and freely bind themselves together. We ask that people willingly choose our faith and all that comes with creating a church. Even UUs who are born into the faith are asked to accept it as their own, as they mature and develop their identities. So what are some of the ideas that bind us together, that nurture us as we dig wells in the hot summer sun?

We believe that truth is ever unfolding, that it is not sealed or held by any one particular person. It may seem obvious to us; it may even seem boring if we've held onto the belief long enough. But a fundamental difference in our church and others is that we believe in many views of what is Holy, that what is true and right for one community may not be true and right for others, and that the important part of life is to allow truth to unfold. This means that we all agree to be open to new ideas about the world, learning from one another and our own lives.

We believe that humanity has a particular role to play in changing the world. Again, this is something that many of us see as obvious – but it points to a deep difference in our theology and the theology of other churches. When we wrestle with how to change our lives and the world, UUs agree that we, as humans, must take an active role. That's why social justice is so important to our faith, but also why we ask people to learn about different spiritual beliefs and practices – we are responsible for our lives, rather than waiting for someone to impart us with the knowledge and actions we desire.

Love is a guiding force. For some religions, fear and punishment are the primary motivators. For us, we choose love. Not, however, a syrupy, saccharine love – but rather, a deep commitment to working together though we disagree. We love one another so much that we are willing to share our deepest fears and hopes, troubles and victories. One of our members has shared with me the quote, “More than a feeling, love is a decision.” We continually decide to show up for one another, even when it's hard.

To be a UU, you must be in relationship with other people – because truth unfolds from relationships and because relationships are part of the human experience that changes the world. When we say that we are a covenantal faith, rather than creedal – this is what we mean. We choose to be together, even when our beliefs about the ultimate, deepest parts of life differ – because what is important to us resides in the relationships we create and grow.

While we all come to this religious community looking for different things (a place to make friends, to explore spirituality, to do justice work, to raise children, to mourn and cope, to relax and find a sanctuary, etc), we have to share in the work of the church to reap the benefits.

So I say thank you, to all of those people who show up to worship or workshops, to committees and congregational meetings. Church work can be hard work, and often we would desire just to have it done for us. But truthfully, the process of creating the church *is* the point of our church. To quote our friends who work in IT, “it's not a bug – it's a feature!”

As summer turns to autumn, as we pour together water in our water communion, may we remember those who came before and dug the wells for us to benefit. And may we continue to toil in the sun and do the hard work, for those who will come long after we are here. Our world needs this faith, which allows for new truths, for human hands to make change, for love to prevail over hatred and fear – may we spread the word and joy of our faith!

In faith,
Rev. Scott



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By JoAnne Draper, Chair, Board of Trustees



A huge thank you goes to Nancy VanderSluis and Cheri Cody for their service on the church board. Your wisdom and dedication have enabled the church to surge towards our goals. The elected officers for 2013-2014 are President, JoAnne Draper; Vice President, Craig Piquette, and Secretary, Anita Jeck. We welcome also Stephanie Peterson and Gay Robinson Abraham. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the church, charged with providing the leadership to make the church's mission a reality for our religious community.

The Board asked Greg Minter to serve on the Committee on Ministry and he graciously accepted. He will be joining Louisa Foster, Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Pat Caffrey, and Julie Kirn. This team aids our congregation in strengthening our ministry and connection to the church covenant through workshops, facilitated conversations, and sharing with us about how the church's ministry is going.

ACT is our mission, Authentic, Compassionate and Transformative. This year sure looks like it will be the year of *transformation*. We will have

- the unveiling of the Strategic Plan
- workshop by the Social Justice Committee to reevaluate our community goals
- Vicki Pratt will be heading the Denominational Connections Committee.

Wow! Join the journey of the butterfly.....

It is an honor and a privilege to serve our beloved church community.

JoAnne



Share the Plate for August: Educare of Omaha

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in August will go to Educare of Omaha.

Educare is an innovative partnership between the public and private sectors to create a more efficient, more effective early learning program that nurtures early learning and sends a bold message about the value of investing in the first five years. Educare of Omaha is located at Kellom and Indian Hill Elementary Schools, and is supported by the Omaha Public Schools, Head Start, Early Head Start, the State of Nebraska, the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, and dozens of other committed private sector champions. For more information, visit educareomaha.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 June 30, 2013

As the 2012-2013 church year ends, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude to all of you for your generosity and stewardship and am looking forward to a spectacular 2013-2014!! Thank you!!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Income	\$ 7,058.26	\$193,182.17
Expenses	-\$16,450.14	-\$193,089.84*
Net Over/Short	-\$ 9,391.88	\$ 92.33

*\$6,600.00 was transferred to Fund 21 Reserve Fund for future use.

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$161,052.27 reflects 96.00% of \$167,758.00 Total Pledged for 2012-13. Note: Pledges of \$4,135.00 were received in July for total of \$165,167.27 which reflects 98.46%.

YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year: \$9,837.45 received of New Pledges for \$10,720.00 for 2012-13.

You will be receiving your contribution statements for 07/01/12 - 06/30/13. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

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

Thank you!
Treasurer
Pat Caffrey

It's Been a Busy Summer So Far!

By Clyde Anderson, Building & Grounds

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who worked so hard during June and July to paint and redecorate the foyer and south stairwell, remove and dispose of the dead spruce tree, and keep our church landscape free of weeds – Kathy & Rick Bell, Tom Peterson, Pam Curtiss-Smith, Roger Nicolaisen, Neva Cozine, Tom Rundquist, Marco Ballarin, and Pam Miller-Jenkins and son.

How can you help?

If you have some spare time at church, there are always weeds in the flower beds to pull. That hardy flowering sage on the south side of the corner sign needs to be cut back so it doesn't block the sign. Papillion Sanitation usually empties the dumpster on Tuesday mornings. If there is excess yard waste stacked next to the dumpster, please put it in the dumpster when it is empty. There are yard tools and waste containers in the outside storage area on the west side of the church. The padlock on the gate is not usually locked.

Have you met our new lawn care contractor?

Beginning this spring, Whitney Loucks has been mowing our lawns. Weather permitting, Whitney mows on Fridays. If you see Whitney, please introduce yourself.

If you see problems with the church building or yard, please report them to Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist. Thank you!



2013-14 Board & Committee Leadership

Board of Trustees: JoAnne Draper, *Chair*
Craig Piquette, *Vice Chair*
Anita Jeck, *Secretary*
Gay Robinson Abraham
Stephanie Peterson

Building and Grounds: Tom Rundquist & Clyde Anderson, Co-Chairs
Caring Committee: Dodie Robison, Chair
Communications Committee: Nancy Amsler, Chair
Denominational Connections: Vicki Pratt, Chair
Fellowship Committee: Judy Eller & Janet Nichols, Co-Chairs
Finance Coordinating Council: Clyde Anderson, Chair
Endowment Fund: Joel Haskins
Fundraising: Nancy VanderSluis
Stewardship: Cheri Cody & Joel Haskins
Library Committee: Pete Miller, Chair
Membership Committee: Leslie Briar Harvey, Chair
Music & Worship Associates: Tom Peterson, Chair
Aesthetics: Dodie Robison & Pam Curtiss-Smith
Nominations/Leadership Development Committee: Carol Johnson, Chair
Personnel Committee: Carol Johnson, Contact
Religious Growth & Learning: Anita Meyer, Chair
Social Justice Coordinating Council: Pat Caffrey, Chair
Care for the Earth: to be announced
Closing the Economic Gap: Pat Caffrey & Cheri Cody
LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation: Tammy Hunter
Strategic Planning Committee: Carol Johnson, Chair
Technology Committee: Bill Kuhn, Chair

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!



Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Meditation Reincarnated is beginning its study of a new book, *Savor* by Thich Nhat Hanh. This book deals with mindful - and mindless - eating. How often do we eat our food while juggling tasks on our to-do list or while watching TV? How often do we shovel food into our mouths without enjoying it, without savoring it? Thich Nhat Hanh will guide us with thoughts and practices to improve our eating habits and help us truly taste and enjoy our food. Please join us as we begin this book.

Meditation Reincarnated meets in the church downstairs on the **fourth Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m.** Learn about and practice meditation. 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. **Our next meeting will be on August 22.**

Donate Your Appreciated Stock to the Church!

By Clyde Anderson, Chair, Finance Coordinating Council

Do you have stock that you have owned for more than one year that has appreciated in value? If you sell that stock, you will owe capital gains tax on the appreciation. Effective this year the capital gains tax rate increased from 15% to 20% for some high-income tax payers. In addition, some tax payers this year will be subject to the new 3.8 percent Medicare tax on investment-type income like capital gains.

Therefore, charitable gifts of appreciated stock make sense now more than ever before!

For example, Mary Anna and I owned a block of Anadarko Petroleum stock. The stock came to us through our ownership of Union Pacific stock. If we sold our Anadarko shares, all of the proceeds would be subject to the capital gains tax. So we decided to donate the Anadarko stock to the church to pay my operating pledges for the next two years.

This is a VERY EFFICIENT way of donating money to the church! First, Mary Anna and I get the equivalent of a double-tax deduction by donating the stock instead of selling the shares and then donating the after-tax proceeds. We avoid paying the capital gains tax on the sale and we get a charitable tax deduction for the donation which is based on the value to the stock when it was transferred to the church. The church gains because it gets a larger donation based on the value of the stock and not on the after-tax proceeds.

IMPORTANT: For this to work, the donor must NOT sell the stock and donate the proceeds. That would trigger a tax event for the donor on the gain. Ownership of the stock must be transferred from the donor to the church prior to being sold.

If you would like to learn more about donating appreciated stock to the church, please contact Clyde Anderson. You will need to consult with your tax advisor on the potential impact of a stock donation on your tax liability.





Raise Your Voice in Song!

Do you love to make a joyful noise and have fun with a delightful group? **Please join the Second Unitarian Choir!** If you enjoy singing, we'd love to have you join us in the choir! No prior experience is necessary.

Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. starting the first Thursday in September. For information and encouragement, contact Music Director Donna Zebolsky at music@2uomaha.org or speak with Donna after Sunday morning worship.



Blackstone Book Club

By Gwen Eurich

We depart from our regular schedule in August for our summer potluck at the home of Doris Peterson. You are welcome to bring significant others to the gathering on August 27. As with our regular discussions, we welcome all members and friends. For further details, please contact Gwen Eurich.

In September, we resume our regular routine with a discussion of *The White Masai* by Corrine Hoffman. Again, we are open to all members and friends wishing to attend any of our book discussions. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

According to the Center for Disease Control, one out of three adults age 65 and older falls each year. Falls can cause moderate to severe injuries such as hip fractures and head injuries. Fortunately, falls are a public health problem that is largely preventable. Come to Retirees' Group Tuesday, August 13, at 1:00 to learn more about preventing falls. All are welcome!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!



Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 1!

**The annual Ice Cream Social will be held
between services starting at 10:30.**

Join us on the east lawn for this fun annual event!



Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

By Ben Wallace, YRUU Advisor



We want to inform the youth, friends, and family about a covenanting session we will be having to lay the foundation for this next year of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU).

The session will be held on **Friday August 16, from 6-9 p.m. at First Unitarian Church** in the lower level common room. Pizza will be provided for dinner.

The future of the YRUU group is based on cooperation between a large number of stakeholders including youth, parents, advisors, church members, board members, and the friends and family who support the YRUU group in many ways.

In order to do some introspection in regards to what the stakeholders of this group would like to see in the group's future, we will be having Nancy Combs Morgan from the MidAmerica Region staff come in to help facilitate our creating of a YRUU Group Covenant. The purpose of the Covenant is to establish how we will work with each other, what we expect from our Youth Group, and how we can create a UU experience that is meaningful for our youth while continuing to fulfill the vision and needs of each of the Church communities.

In addition to the covenanting process, Nancy will be holding Youth Advisor Training. The time will be announced. Our YRUU program depends on the wonderful Youth Advisors who help guide the program throughout the year. If there are any adults from Second Unitarian who might be interested in becoming trained as a Youth Advisor, please let us know. Contact us at omahayruu@gmail.com.

We look forward to bringing everyone together again to discuss the future of YRUU!!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us at omahayruu@gmail.com.

Upcoming OTOC Training

By Carol Johnson

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) is engaged in congregational-based grassroots community organizing to create positive change in Omaha. Community organizing is a way to learn more about yourself and your neighbors and the dynamics of people and teamwork and cooperation. Participation in community organizing efforts benefits your community and your congregation in numerous ways and also strengthens our mental, emotional and spiritual well being.

If you are interested in knowing more about OTOC and community organizing, two training events are open to you:

Monday, August 5, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 69th and Cass
Developing a Relational Culture in our Congregations and Institutions

Saturday, August 17, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Place TBA
OTOC 101-An Introductory session from member congregations and institutions

Contact Pat Caffrey, Vicki Pratt, Clyde Anderson or Carol Johnson for more information about OTOC or the trainings listed above



Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

By Kirsten Stiles, Director of Religious Growth & Learning



What a beautiful sea of diversity our church holds. Welcome to our church family. It is important to us that everyone finds a fitting space that provides a comfortable environment to nurture and grow yourself and your family. A place that feels like home but feeds the soul with food that cannot be bought at any store. If we intend to grow young Unitarian Universalists, there are a few factors we sometimes tend to overlook.

Education is an important key to learning and growing both inside and out. Unlike traditional schools with teachers, we have a church with community, thus making you a vitally important part of our Religious Education system here at Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.

I challenge each and every one of you to represent the role you play in this amazing church community even if it's just one Sunday morning for only 45 minutes. I invite you to see and feel what it is to truly be a full circle church community.

Deepen your understanding for, and the importance of, multigenerational education through parent/teacher cooperative programming.

Contact me for more information: dre@2uomaha.org or 402-334-0537 ext. 112.

***“Don't fear that our children are not listening,
but rather fear that they are always watching.”***

-Author unknown

Kirsten

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.

- 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 Leslie Briar Harvey, Chair, Membership Committee

In early June, our Connections Coordinator Katie Tessin hosted our latest Pathways to Membership class, a chance for participants to share their stories and to learn about who we are at Second Unitarian.

We are very happy to welcome our newest members! Please welcome them with open arms, and take a moment to look at their biographies, which are now located in the Coffee Hour area.

Lunch for Newcomers resumes on August 11, after second service. Feel free to bring a new friend and join us!

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!

Staff

Attendance				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Family Service Learning
5/26	61	FSLP		18
6/2	107	Intergenerational		--
6/9	85	9	10	--
6/16	83	Intergenerational		--
6/23	93	7		--
6/30	68	6		--
7/7	79	7	8	--
7/14	69	6	8	--

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha
3012 South 119th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68144
402-334-0537
www.2Uomaha.org

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
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Donna Zebolsky, Music Director

music@2Uomaha.org

Katie Tessin, Connections Coordinator

membership@2uomaha.org

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

Social Justice Movie Night - "BIDDER 70"

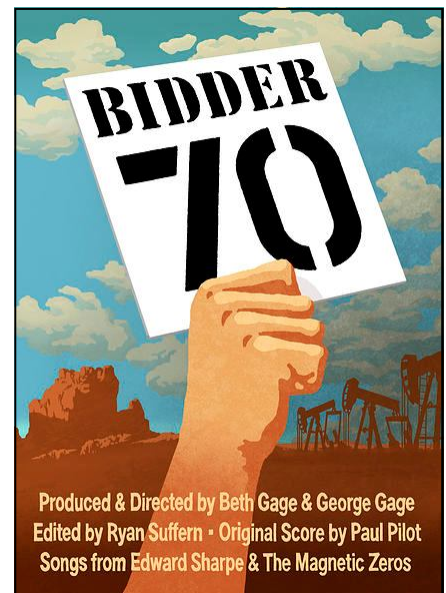
By Vicki Pratt

The August Social Justice Documentary is BIDDER 70, **Sunday, August 11, optional healthy potluck at 6:00 p.m., followed by movie and discussion at 6:30.**

Everyone is invited to the free viewing of BIDDER 70. This documentary features the environmental activism of UU Tim DeChristopher. As a college student in Utah, he derailed a 2008 Bush Administration federal oil and gas land sale by bidding millions of dollars to save thousands of pristine acres near Federal parkland. With no money and no intention of paying or drilling, he was charged with two felonies, even though the auction was soon invalidated by the Obama Administration.

Come find out about Tim's commitment to non-violent, peaceful resistance to "those who are making war against my generation."

This documentary showing is in cooperation with UU Ministry for Earth.



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