



February Sunday Services

February 7 - "A Pathway to the Future." What will be happening at Hopedale in 2011, 2015, or 2020? Where will we go? Get out the GPS and let's check out the points on the map. With a clear vision, as well as a mission and covenant, anything is possible. This will be the third in a series on mission, vision, and covenant, by Rev. Linda Eppert.

February 14 - "Darwin's Religious Legacy." The *UU World* published a special issue dedicated to Darwin's effect on religious belief. Patty Klingenberg invites Hopedale members and friends to (re)read the two main articles from the spring 09 issue (available at uua.org) and come prepared to share reactions. Don't have time to read? Don't worry Patty will offer a brief summary to get us started.

February 21 - "It Matters What We Believe." Bruce Beisner, aspirant for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry will help us explore how, as Unitarian Universalists, we claim to value of our religious freedom perhaps above all else. But throughout our history we have continuously been challenged by those among us whose ideas seem to fall outside what we think are our commonly held beliefs. The Universalists held heresy trials against some ministers in the late 1800s while the Unitarians in Boston ostracized Theodore Parker. What is the balance between diversity of belief and claiming a "UU identity"? What might be the Unitarian Universalist heresy of today? **Please join us for a potluck after Sunday Service.**

February 28 - "Love is an Action, Never Simply a Feeling." This quote, attributed to bell hooks, can be provocative of considerable reflection. hooks also suggests, "If we want a beloved community, we must stand for justice, have recognition for difference without attaching difference to privilege." February is often identified as a month of love. During this Circle Worship, we will consider the following questions: What has someone else done for me that has helped me feel loved? What have I done for someone else to convey love? How can we as members of the Hopedale community stand on the side of love? Service leader: Ann Fuehrer.

Consulting Minister's Meanderings



When you have a disagreement with someone do you care enough to confront them? In the book, *Caring Enough to Confront*, David Augsburger poses this question. He states that there IS a way to discover, "the loving side of conflict."

I remember when I first engaged in conflict work with congregations in our Heartland District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I was one of the first members of a group of four folks asked to take conflict training to help congregations approach conflict through a new lens. After training and meeting to discuss the process of working with congregations the "Conflict Engagement and Right Relations" team was born. As an outgrowth of my training and previous job experience as the Peace Enabler with the Presbytery of Cincinnati, I thought this new role with the district was a good fit.

It isn't that I love conflict. In fact, the opposite is true. I love peacemaking more. In my adult years, as I have learned conflict is an inevitable part of life, I have become less afraid of conflict and its possible outcomes. By confronting conflicts with other individuals, the nauseating feeling in the pit of my stomach began to turn into a feeling of being refreshed and renewed in relationships, once again being in right relations.

What would a Covenant of Right Relations look like for the Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community? What promises of being in right relations would you be willing to make and to keep as a member or friend of this beloved community? Here is an example: The next time someone comes to you and shares a complaint about someone else's behavior you can say: "Have you talked with the person directly?" If they say, "no," you can say: "Would you like me to go to with you to talk with the person?"

Here is another example of being in right relations. The use of "I" statements is an important tool when you are approaching a person you are in conflict with. Own your feelings and thoughts by saying, "I feel," and/or "I think." Focus on the behavior. For example: "When you forgot to pick me up after the church service today, I felt . . . or I thought . . .". Sharing our deepest thoughts and feelings with one another is how we grow deeper in our relationships and truly know we have been heard.

In Hope and Peace, Rev. Linda

Prez Message

The Hopedale Board had a chance to visit St. John's UU Church in Clifton, the site for their second annual retreat. While our congregation has not yet formed its own vision, it was insightful to see what kind of church we might be in the future. Yet even in the midst of a big city church my heart smiled considering our modest indoor worship space and pleasant and lovely outdoor sanctuary. It was like comparing apples and oranges. We really do have a wonderful place to call home. And we have much to envision as we look ahead.

The work of our retreat included a discussion of the skills described in *Caring Enough to Confront* by David Augsburger. Knowing that there are often opportunities in our lives to face difficult situations we considered ways to confront problems in a way that offered respectful and affirming resolution. We practiced the skills through role-playing and insightful discussion.

Our second task for the day was to evaluate the Consulting Ministry, a shared responsibility of the Board and Rev. Linda Eppert. Using a Progress Appraisal template used in Interim Ministry, we considered the paths taken by the congregation in the last year in claiming and honoring our past; engaging and acknowledging our griefs and conflicts; and, in recognizing our unique identity in strengths, needs and challenges. The appraisal format also addressed the shift in leadership during transition and the roles of the minister, the staff and the lay leadership.

We finished the day eager for the vision and stewardship that will emerge in our faith community of members and friends during the congregation-wide Appreciative Inquiry retreat on Saturday, February 6th. Mark the day and be a part of our tomorrow. -Liz Woedl,

HUUC Board President



Gift Tree Thanks

The following have been/are being presented to the community by some 20 friends and members: five reams of paper, window-washing, educational charts on organic topics, three pounds of coffee, six children's books, a shop vac, post-it pad, pens, a claw hammer, various R.E. supplies, two tablecloths, dish towels, toys for elementary kids, thank you cards, note cards, stamps, dish soap, napkins, toys for the nursery, and two kids' footstools for the

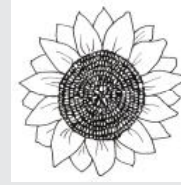
bathroom sinks! -- Thanks to all who participated in the HUUC Holiday Gift Tree project.

-Pete Carels

GREEN CORNER

Why Haven't We Always Built This Way?

from Gisela Bahr



A Movement that started some decades ago is now reaching critical mass around the world: the green roof movement. Unlike the roof gardens that I observed in New York City back in the fifties where trees and other greenery planted in containers were gathered on roofs for people to have a little “nature,” green roofs or live roofs are completely covered with thick layers of grasses planted into a special mix of soil. Architects, builders, and city planners all across the planet have begun to turn roofs green – not for their beauty but for their practicality. They increase energy efficiency, reduce storm water run-off, and mitigate the environmental extremes common on conventional roofs. To stand on a green roof in Vancouver or Chicago or Stuttgart or Singapore or Tokyo one might be impressed by the variety and the possibilities and wonder: Why haven't we always built this way?

One reason: the technology had to be developed but the environmental thinking had to develop as well. Now waterproof membranes make it easier to design living roof systems that capture water for irrigation, allow drainage, and support the vegetation. In some places, for example Portland, Oregon, builders are encouraged by incentives like fee reductions, to use green roofs. In others – such as Germany, Austria and Switzerland – living roofs are required by law on roofs of suitable pitch.

Green roofs naturalize cities and make them more livable. During the summer, daytime temperatures on conventional asphalt rooftops can get up to 150 degrees, making cities warmer than their surrounding region. On green roofs the soil mixture and vegetation serve as insulation and temperatures fluctuate only mildly, reducing heating and cooling costs in the buildings below them by as much as 20 percent. A living roof works the way a meadow does, absorbing water, filtering it, slowing it down, even storing some of it for later use. That helps reduce the threat of sewer overflows, extends the life of a city's drain system and returns cleaner water to the surrounding watershed.


Proponents of living roofs claim they have met most, if not all, challenges involved in grafting a biological layer to the top of buildings of almost any size. The next challenge is to make green roofs work in the most sustainable way, using the least energy while creating the most benefit for the human and nonhuman habitat. In this country the leading green roof city is Chicago. Source: Verlyn Klinkenborg, *Up On The Roof*, National Geographic, vol 215 no.5, p.84ff



JOYS & CONCERNS

Let us know your joys and concerns. Call Caring Committee coordinators **Jane Flueckiger**, 523-2289 or **Susan Thrasher**, 523-5860.

- ⌘ Best wishes for a good recovery to Chris Parker who had knee replacement surgery recently.
- ⌘ Our thoughts are with former members Jerry and Evelyn Ruth Thompson. Jerry is very ill.
- ⌘ Our sympathy goes to Joe and Dee Wegwert, former members now living in Flagstaff, AZ. Joe's mother has died.
- ⌘ Many thanks to Mary and Gary Fox, hosts of the PUUL party! We ate, talked, played games, listened to Gary's great music collection, and raised some money for Hopedale. It was 3 degrees when we left their house, dropping to zero as we traveled down the road, but the warmth of our hosts' hospitality stayed with us all the way home!



**The
Congregational
Appreciative
Inquiry will be
held on
Saturday,
February 6th**

from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing or calling the Hopedale office.

Rev. Linda's February Office Hours

Rev. Linda will be at the Hopedale Office on **Monday, February 15th** and **Wednesday, February 17th** from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. During the rest of the month, you can reach Rev. Eppert at 513-378-5769 (cell.) or via email: eppert@fuse.net

A WORD FROM LEADERSHIP/NOMINATING

We are leading a search for two new candidates for the Board for the year 2010/11. Please read the job description for Member Services (Vice Pres.) and Religious Services (Vice Pres.).

Then, ask yourself if that could be a place where you could serve. To paraphrase John F. Kennedy "Ask not what Hopdale can do for you; ask what you can do for Hopedale. Contact Linda Amspaugh, Eunice Meadows or Steve Moore and volunteer.

We also need a chair for Social Action as well as Housing and Property. Many thanks.



Denominational Affairs

Heartland District 10th Annual District Meeting-April 9-11, Ann Arbor, MI.

UUA General Assembly-June 23-27, Minneapolis, MN.

If anyone is interested in attending the Midwest UU Leadership School, please speak to Rev. Linda or a board member.



Oxford's NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet is Monday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 in Miami's Shriver Center. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased from Valerie Elliott, 523-2552.

Thanks.

The green TV series, Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska.

The environmental TV show, "Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska," will continue on Sunday, February 28, at 1:30 at Gisela Bahr's, 102 E. Central Avenue, Oxford, with **Episode 3:** Simplicity and Convenience; Finding Your Living Space; The Power of Giving - and **Episode 4:** The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Special.

Everybody is Welcome!

Happening at Hopedale this month...

Appreciative Inquiry will be held on **Saturday, February 6th** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Light breakfast at 8:30 a.m.) See you there.

POTLUCK is **Sunday, February 21st** after Sunday Service.

Newsletter deadline is **Sunday, February 21st**.

Board meeting **Wednesday, February 17th** (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Howdy y'all,

I know you don't have enough to do or read, so I am going to allow you to see my blog, The Adventures of Robert/les aventures de Robert/die Abenteuer Roberts/blog Roberta/! Actually, it's called Eurotravelhistory. Classy, eh?

The address: <http://eurotravhist.wordpress.com>

This blog follows my time, even my pre-time, from January to June 2010, as I zoom around Western Europe in my medium-hot Volvo, paid for and waiting for me in Sweden, using my apartment in a 15th-century chateau in Luxembourg as my base. Autobahns.

EUROBLOGGIN',
Robert Thurston

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

On Sunday, January 17, we took two "extra" collections. As a community, we will be sending:

\$214.85 to the UU Service Committee for our annual Guest at Your Table campaign.

\$387.66 to the UU Service Committee for relief work in Haiti



Thanks a lot,
Ann



The **Deadline** to submit items for the March 2010 issue of the *Hopedale Community News* is **Sunday, February 21st**. Please email: huuoffice@gmail.com

Ideas for Small Congregations Continued

submitted by Kim Jacobs-Beck

4. Create process for what to do when we fall away from our covenant. Creating the covenant is just the first important step.

1. Respectfully remind all involved of the covenant.

One reason it is helpful to have is that when things are not going well, it is possible to respectfully, even gently, remind a person that we all agreed to try to treat each other in a particular way.

2. Ask what is needed to get back into covenant.

A person or group can be asked what they might need to try to get back into covenant (Ask what is happening? A short break? Silence? Prayer or song? Apologies or acknowledgement of something difficult? A private conversation? Protein? Stretch? Etc.)

3. Try to do what is identified.

Try to let people do what they say they need to do without rescuing them.

4. Start again, if appropriate, perhaps rereading the covenant.

If is not appropriate to start again immediately, make it clear how the continued conversation will be set up for later.

5. It helps a great deal if the leadership can remain calm.

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