

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Congregation

People's Voice

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FEBRUARY 2009

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 7

“THE LITTLE CONGREGATION THAT COULD”

CHAPTER 11: DID YOU KNOW THAT...

... WE WERE
ORIGINALLY CALLED
WEST SHORE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
BUT THE WORD FELLOWSHIP
WAS SOON CHANGED TO
CONGREGATION
TO BETTER REFLECT
THE GROUP'S DESIRE
TO GROW.

... “THE CHALICE WINDOW”
IN THE OFFICE DOOR, THE
FIRST THING YOU SEE WHEN
YOU ENTER THE CHURCH,
WAS MADE BY
DUANE JORGENSEN

**MARCH 1994 -
MARCH 2009**

... IN 1998
THE CONGREGATION
VOTED ON A NAME FROM
THE FOLLOWING FOUR
CANDIDATES:

- PATHFINDERS CHURCH
- PEOPLE'S CHURCH
- SEEKERS CHURCH
- WEST SHORE LIBERAL CHURCH

... DAVE RODWELL
BUILT THE NEW PODIUM
FOR OUR SANCTUARY.

... THE LECTERN ON TOP
WAS A GIFT FROM
BILL RAPPMAN
ON OUR
FIRST BIRTHDAY.

... THE BANNER IN
HOSPITALITY HALL
WAS A FIRST BIRTHDAY
GIFT FROM
PAT CARNEY.
ITS TREE HAS SINCE
BECOME A SYMBOL
OF OUR CHURCH ON
STATIONERY, ENVELOPES,
& OUR NEWSLETTER.

DO YOU HAVE A VISION FOR PEOPLE'S CHURCH?
WILL YOU SHARE IT WITH OTHER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS?

In March we will be celebrating our 15th birthday as a congregation. After eleven months of celebrating our history with memories shared by some who had the original vision, the questions for the twelfth month are:

1. “WHAT DO WE WANT OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY TO BE IN THE FUTURE?”
2. “HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THAT VISION?”

Your assignment, should you choose to accept it (and I certainly hope that you will), is to send an email or other communication addressing those two questions to adennison@att.net.

To see what other churches have done regarding vision, check the websites of other UU congregations. One of the goals our Board of Trustees set for 2009: “DEVELOP A VISION FOR PEOPLE'S CHURCH.”

SUNDAY SERVICES — 11:00 A.M.

February 1~ Gandhi and Churchill

~ Dr. Lou Yock

These two rivals demonstrate two of the strongest and most influential forces of the twentieth century—war and non-violence. Were good ends achieved by both? Was one right and the other wrong?

February 8~ Growing the Soul

~ Reverend Catherine Harrington

When Dr. Fred Wooden spoke at People's Church last fall, he challenged us to reflect on the mission of our church. If our church doesn't "free the mind, grow the soul, and change the world" then we are not living up to our highest ideals as a religious community. Today's sermon will focus on what we can do to "grow our souls."

February 15~ Evolution Sunday

~ Reverend Catherine Harrington
Dr. Jim Hopson, Dr. Ed Dennison

Dr Jim Hopson and Dr. Ed Dennison will join Rev. Harrington in this dialogue between science and religion. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin (12 February 1809) and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his seminal work 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859.

(See Minister's Musings to read the UU Clergy Letter-An Open Letter Concerning Religion and Science)

February 22 ~ Aren't We Already Welcoming?

~Reverend Catherine Harrington

Is it true that our church probably meets most of the qualifications for a Welcoming Congregation? However, official recognition as a Welcoming Congregation allows us to open our church as safe space for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons; to take positions on oppression in our larger communities; and to accomplish outreach.

Our vision goes beyond the Welcoming Congregation Program. By taking this first step, we hope to explore more issues than those presented here—like sexism, racism, ableism, to name just a few. Becoming a Welcoming Congregation will act as a catalyst to learning more about ourselves and to ending exclusion. Only when we are truly open to the wealth of diversity in our world will the inherent worth and dignity of every person be affirmed with a large voice.

(uaa.org/welcomingcongregations)

Special Wednesday Service:

Peace Vespers ~February 4 (Soup and Bread 6 PM; Candlelight service 7 PM)

In Anne Lamott's book, "Traveling Mercies, Some Thoughts on Faith," her pastor tells this story: When she was about seven, her best friend got lost one day. The little girl ran up and down the streets of the big town where they lived, but she couldn't find a single landmark. She was very frightened. Finally a policeman stopped to help her. He put her in the passenger seat of his car, and they drove round until she finally saw her church. She pointed it out to the policeman, and then she told him firmly, "You can let me out now. This is my church, and I can always find my way home from here." From The Church Where People Laugh" compiled and edited by Gwen Foss

In 1846, Unitarian poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau was arrested and spent one night in jail for refusing to pay his poll tax. He had done this as a protest against both slavery and the Mexican War which was being fought to extend slave territory. Unitarian minister Ralph Waldo Emerson visited him that night in jail and asked him, "Henry, why are you there?"

To which Thoreau replied, "Waldo, why are you not here?"

From The Church Where People Laugh
compiled and edited by Gwen Foss

MUSINGS OF REVEREND CATHERINE HARRINGTON

Whew! It's been a tough winter and the **twenty-one inches** of #@%&# snow last weekend was an insult to injury. All of you snow birds, send warm thoughts (or plane tickets for Hawaii), we are WEARY of SNOW! Fortunately, our lives are rich and full in spite of the weather. We've been invigorated by the historical inauguration of President Barack Obama and our exciting new interfaith education collaboration with our Methodist friends. Dr. Lou started teaching Adult RE classes on Sunday afternoons at 2 PM in spite of the fact that every single Sunday since mid-November we've had icy roads and whiteout conditions. Did you know that Lou drives 90 minutes each way to be with us on Sundays? What a trooper! Be sure to check the schedule and don't miss the opportunity to "free your mind and grow your soul." Once a month, the class time will be devoted to our goal of becoming a Welcoming Congregation. We are planning our church's fifteenth birthday celebration, and we know that spring will return eventually. At least we can count on the fact that the Dairy Queen will open in March! Can't we?



I want to say thank you to all of you who faithfully show up on Sunday mornings "come hell or high snow," your presence matters a great deal. It really is "good to be together again!" There's the Choir and Choir Director, our Religious Education Director, the Hospitality Hosts, the Worship Associates, the Ushers, the Greeters, those who keep our church warm and safe, clearing the snow, spreading the salt, keeping our church clean...the list is endless. Thank you! Thank you!

In faith and love, Cathy

P.S. Here's the Clergy Letter that I have signed along with many of my UU colleagues:

The Clergy Letter - from Unitarian Universalist Clergy – An Open Letter Concerning Religion and Science

As Unitarian Universalists, we draw from many sources, including "Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life," and "Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit." While most Unitarian Universalists believe that many sacred scriptures convey timeless truths about humans and our relationship to the sacred, we stand in solidarity with our Christian and Jewish brothers and sisters who do not read the Bible literally, as they would a science textbook. We believe that religious truth is of a different order from scientific truth. Its purpose is not to convey scientific information but to transform hearts.

Fundamentalists of various traditions, who perceive the science of evolution to be in conflict with their personal religious beliefs, are seeking to influence public school boards to authorize the teaching of creationism. We see this as a breach in the separation of church and state. Those who believe in a literal interpretation of the Biblical account of creation are free to teach their perspective in their homes, religious institutions and parochial schools. To teach it in the public schools would be to assert a particular religious perspective in an environment which is supposed to be free of such indoctrination.

We the undersigned, Unitarian Universalist clergy, believe that the timeless truths of the Bible and other scriptures may comfortably coexist with the discoveries of modern science. We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as "one theory among others" is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children. We urge school board members to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution as a core component of human knowledge. We ask that science remain science and that religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary, forms of truth.

HAPPY 15th ANNIVERSARY

PEOPLE'S CHURCH

MARCH 13, 1994—MARCH 13, 2009

FEBRUARY EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 3 P.M. MEMBERSHIP CLASS

On Sunday, February 1, a membership class will be held at 3 p.m. Reverend Harrington and the co-chairs of the Membership Committee will meet with anyone interested in becoming a member of People's Church. Please talk to Cathy Harrington, Anne Pettigrew (845-6615) or Carol Farley (843-8077) if you would like to attend.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 7 P.M. FABULOUS FIRST FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL #61

The sensational **Soweto Gospel Choir**, will be featured in film at **People's Church** on **Friday, February 6th**, at **7:00 pm**. From the suburb of Johannesburg South Africa, their spontaneity and infectious spirit are unforgettable. Their earthy rhythms, rich harmonies, drumming, dancing, vibrant costumes and charisma are stunning. A discussion will follow the film. Questions regarding the film may be directed to David Nixon at 843-4099.

TWO-BITS UNIVERSITY SUNDAYS, 5-6:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 1 Tonight we will be watching three short films from the *Spiritual Cinema Circle*.

Tanghi Argentini - This Academy Award-nominated short film places us right in the middle of office politics. Andre is not one for asserting himself, but an upcoming blind date at a tango club forces him to enlist his most arrogant colleague as his tango coach. Andre begins to tap into his inner passions as the magic of tango gets into his blood stream, but things don't always work out as we expect!

Passing - In this gentle short film we are asked to examine how we give to those we cherish the most.

Greedy for Life - This short documentary introduces us to two women over 80 years old, who are living life to its fullest, bringing us a hopeful glimpse of how good life can be at any age!

FEBRUARY 8 Tonight we will be watching a full length feature film from the *Spiritual Cinema Circle*.

Swing - This fun feature film starring Jacqueline Bisset, Jonathan Winters, Tom Skerritt and Nel Carter, will get your heart pumping with the music and moves of swing dance. A film that travels through time to bring the lessons from the past to the people who need it in the present, *Swing* encourages us to choose a path that follows our passions, knowing that love and success will follow.

SUNDAYS AT 2 P.M. ARE (ADULT RELIGIOUS ED) CLASS

February 1

Understanding the Bible: Traditions

This ongoing series, led by Dr. Louis Yock, will deal with understanding the Bible in its historical and literary context. It will examine how it was composed, the motivations of those composing it, and the historical circumstances surrounding its composition. We are following the book *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals* by John A. Buehrens.

February 8

Understanding the Bible: Versions

This ongoing series, led by Dr. Louis Yock, will deal with understanding the Bible in its historical and literary context. It will examine how it was composed, the motivations of those composing it, and the historical circumstances surrounding its composition. We are following the book *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals* by John A. Buehrens.

February 15

Logical Positivism

This class will examine a popular approach to reality that arose between WWI and WWII in Europe. In a sense, it is a philosophy that rejects traditional philosophy and argues that the only true propositions are those backed up by logic, mathematics, and science.

February 22

The Welcoming Congregation: Discussion

The People's Church Board of Directors has voted to investigate and pursue our church's becoming a "Welcoming Congregation." In our first discussion, we will investigate what this means as defined by the UUA, and what it means to us as a congregation.



RELIGIOUS ED NEWS FEBRUARY '09

For the children, we will continue the UUA curriculum of "Timeless Themes," and will be examining the Christian Scriptures. In our studies, we will examine the life, parable, and miracle stories associated with Jesus, and his early disciples.

Now more than ever we need people willing to lead a class or two, so if anyone is interested in following a very well laid-out curriculum, now is the chance to volunteer.

Lou

"There is no office higher than that of teacher of youth, for there is nothing on earth as precious as the mind, soul, character of the child."

-- William Ellery Channing

HELP MAKE OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY
ONE TO REMEMBER!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
AFTER SERVICE FOR A GATHERING
TO PLAN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES TO
CELEBRATE THE
15TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PEOPLE'S CHURCH.

WHETHER YOU'RE YOUNG OR OF A MORE
MATURE AGE, NEW TO THE CHURCH OR
AN "OLD-TIMER," MEMBER OR FRIEND,
WE NEED YOUR IDEAS AND ENERGY.

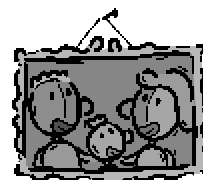
THE BOARD HAS BEEN KICKING AROUND
IDEAS WITH CATHY AND ALICE DEN-
NISON (WHO HAS ALREADY GIVEN US A
GOOD HEAD START ON COMPILING OUR
HISTORY) AND WE'D LIKE TO
GET YOURS.

SO, SEE YOU AROUND 12:30 ON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT CHURCH.

COMING SOON DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!

Since many members and friends had asked whether People's Church ever planned to have a pictorial directory, a task force recently began investigating possibilities. After extensive research, the committee has made arrangements for LIFETOUCH, a national company which has been producing church directories and portraits for more than seventy years, to help us design an album featuring our church and the people who love it.

Photographers will be here taking portraits on Tuesday, May 5. A personal letter will be sent with more details about scheduling a convenient time for photographing each person during that day and evening. The amount of free material presented to our congregation will depend on the number of people who participate, so mark your calendars now. More information about this exciting project will soon be published.



Unitarian minister Edward Everett Hale was serving as chaplain of the U.S. Senate when he was asked, "Do you pray for the senators, Dr. Hale?"

"No," the great man replied, "I look at the senators and I pray for the country."

Anniversary Directory
photographs will be taken
On May 5, from 2:30 to 9 p.m.
At People's Church

SUMMARY OF JANUARY 10 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Members present: Dave Hall, Terry Murphy, Christine Reed-Fast, Dave Rodwell, Mary Wickwire

Minister: Cathy Harrington

Guests: Ed and Alice Dennison, Ron Johnson

Ron Johnson informed the Board about the 15th Anniversary Directory to be from purchases by those who want to order photographs. On May 5, from 2:30 to 9 p.m., photographs will be taken. A signup sheet will be posted for those who want photographs taken, and a means will be provided for those who do not want to be included in the book.

The Minutes of 12/14 were approved, and Christine Reed-Fast will send thank you and recognition cards of appreciation.

In the Minister's Report, Cathy Harrington distributed copies of the UUA's guidelines, "Toward Peace and Justice in the Middle East," and reported that she is following those guidelines.

Dave Hall in the Treasurer's Report, summarized by saying that he is cautiously optimistic based on the church's current financial status. He also recommended that the Barvick's CD be continued until May 2009. The Board gratefully accepted recent gifts to the church in amounts above \$500. The report was approved.

The Board went into Executive Committee to discuss the Administrator Search. Terry Murphy will confer with Karen Grady and then make an offer to the top candidate.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, at 12:30, a meeting will be held to include anyone interested in getting involved concerning the church's Vision, formation of the Development Committee combined with the 15th Anniversary, the Stewardship Campaign, and celebrating the new Covenant. On Sunday, May 3, the church will have a party to celebrate the 15th Anniversary, the new Covenant, and the Development/Stewardship.

After the second reading, the Board approved the Policy Proposal Regarding Gifts and Special Project. Terry Murphy noted that she had received no input from church members.

Plans are proceeding to ready the church for the use by an outside agency

The Board approved a request from the City of Ludington that we send a letter stating that we do not oppose a Volley Ball event on Saturday, Feb. 7, where alcohol and food would be served in the parking lot behind the Sportsman's Bar and Restaurant.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11.

Mary Wickwire, Secretary

ARE YOU A HEARTLAND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST?

If you live in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan or Ohio you might be!

The Heartland District of the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) invites you to join other Heartland UU's (Unitarian Universalists) at our family-friendly Annual Spring Conference. The Spring Conference will be held in Muncie, Indiana from April 3 through April 5, 2009. Come and join us for Workshops, Speakers, good food and great fellowship.

Information and registration forms can be found on our website <http://www.heartlanduu.org>

SPRING CONFERENCE

MUNCIE INDIANA


APRIL 3—5

SANCTUARY DOOR UPGRADE

You may have noticed that a "panic bar" has been installed on the sanctuary door. Thanks to the skills and hard work of Josh Swenson, we can now lock the door from the outside and exit from the inside without a key. This change was needed to accommodate a new group that is using our church for meetings. Josh's work on this project saved the congregation several hundred dollars. Please express your gratitude to Josh for his work.

In addition: The membership committee researched and had the opaque covering put on the door so that we have more privacy in our sanctuary.

FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 a.m. —Choir Practice 11:00 a.m.—Church Service & RE 2:00 p.m.— ARE 3:00 p.m. New Member Class 5:00 p.m. Two Bits U 7:30 p.m. - Zen Meditation	2	3	4 6 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers	5 10 a.m. Recorder Practice 7:30 p.m. Zen Meditation	6 7 p.m. Fabulous First Friday Film Festival	7
8 9:30 a.m. —Choir Practice 11:00 a.m.—Church Service & RE 12:30 p.m.—15th anniversary- visioning meeting 2:00 p.m.— ARE 5 p.m. Two Bits U 7:30 p.m. - Zen Meditation	9	10 4:30 p.m. Adult RE Meeting	11 4 p.m. Membership Committee 7 p.m. Board Meeting	12 10 a.m. Recorder Practice 7:30 p.m. Zen Meditation	13 Happy 16th birthday to Shawna Hillman! 	14
15 9:30 a.m. —Choir Practice 11:00 a.m.—Church Service & RE 2:00 p.m.—ARE 7:30 p.m. - Zen Meditation PEOPLE'S VOICE DEADLINE	16	17 7 p.m. COM	18	19 10 a.m. Recorder Practice 7:30 p.m. Zen Meditation	20	21
22 9:30 a.m. —Choir Practice 11:00 a.m.—Church Service & RE 2:00 p.m.—ARE 7:30 p.m. - Zen Meditation SPLIT-THE-PLATE SUNDAY	23	24	25	26 10 a.m. Recorder Practice 7:30 p.m. Zen Meditation	27	28 7:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Buddhist Retreat

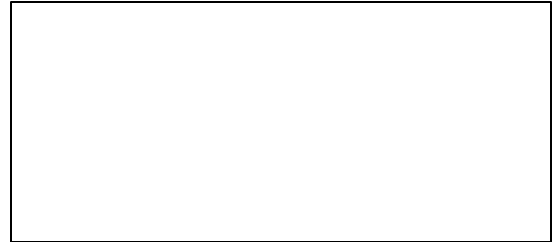
Date	Hospitality Hosts	Flowers	Sanctuary Keepers	Ushers
2/1	Judith and George Dila Launa and Duane Jorgensen	Anne	Anne	Anne and Norm Pettigrew
2/8	Rebecca Fox Peg and Kent Gage	Alice	Alice	Alice and Ed Dennison
2/15	Mary and John Markov Diana Phelps		Carmine	Carol and Dave Rodwell
2/22	Jane Carpenter Bev Fogarty		Carol	Priscilla Tait and Ken Fisher

REGULAR MEETING TIMES
SUNDAYS @ 5:00 P.M.—2-BITS U
SUNDAYS @ 7:30 P.M.—ZEN MEDITATION
SECOND TUESDAY 4:30 P.M.—ADULT RE
THIRD TUESDAY @ 7 P.M.—COM
FIRST WEDNESDAY @ 6 P.M.—SOUP SUPPER
FIRST WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 P.M.—PEACE VESPERS
SECOND WEDNESDAY @ 4 P.M.—MEMBERSHIP
SECOND WEDNESDAY @ 7 P.M.—BOARD MEETING
THURSDAYS @ 10 A.M.—RECORDER PRACTICE
THURSDAYS @ 7:30 P.M.—ZEN MEDITATION
LAST SATURDAY @ 7:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. - BUDDHIST RETREAT
FEBRUARY DATES AT A GLANCE
4—PEACE VESPERS
6—FABULOUS FIRST FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL
15—NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
22—SPLIT-THE-PLATE SUNDAY



People's Church

West Shore Unitarian
Universalist Congregation
115 West Loomis Street
Ludington, Michigan 49431



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
please check box and return this sheet to the church.

People's Church Covenant

We, the members and friends of People's Church, covenant to create and sustain an intergenerational religious community built on trust, respect, and understanding. Guided by our mission, we covenant to embrace diversity, encourage one another to participate fully in congregational life and to grow and learn together in faith and love.

We covenant to maintain open and honest communication and handle all disagreements with courtesy, fairness, and forgiveness. We promise to listen to one another, assume good intentions, identify common goals, and value the gifts brought by all.

In support of our shared ministry, we covenant to live our Unitarian Universalist principles in our local and world communities, and to give generously of our spiritual gifts and material resources.

MINISTER

The Reverend Catherine Harrington

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“ Love is the spirit of this church, and service is it's law ”