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Music Notes

Music Sunday, our annual service celebrating the role of music in worship, is May 22. The NUUC Choir will be performing some favorites from this choir season. In addition to the full choir, Traci Aquara will be singing a solo with our fabulous accompanist Wade Jones. The youth will be well represented too. Mike Fagan will be performing an original composition, and Elowen Conley will be playing Irish fiddle tunes.

Music Sunday isn't the only cool thing happening in the

May 2011 Newsletter

I am SO looking forward to worship this Sunday. We will have the unparalleled treat of listening to our nine Coming of Age program graduates share their credos-their personal statements of what they believe. These fabulous young people mark the first group from NUUC to experience a structured, volunteer-led program engaging them on many aspects of mature faith. We all owe much to the heroic efforts of Dick Leavy and Melinda Rosenberg, with much able assistance from Nancy Gamso, and from the efforts of the mentors who worked individually with the youth throughout the winter and spring.

This Sunday (May 1), we will most likely experience the Coming of Age students as individuals, as they present to us their personal thoughts about spirituality. But I wanted to write now and let you know that from my point of view, they have already achieved a real understanding of what religion is about: they know how to be a group. It has been something to watch them together. There are no insiders or outsiders here-- only a kind regard for each other, a respect for individual difference, and a sense of themselves as, dare I say it? As a congregation, a place where people foster spiritual growth together. I keep thinking of the words in our hymnal by John Buehrens: "Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community, who regularly join in celebration and learning; who come as much to minister as to be ministered unto."

I hope you can join me to help congratulate all who have participated. Know you will be inspired.

To Life!

--Rev. Susan

Equality Events

Columbus Pride Parade June 18

Once again NUUC will be marching in the Columbus Pride Parade scheduled for June 18. Our theme this year is "We March For Those Who Can't." There are 93 countries or territories with laws against homosexuality. Many do not enforce the laws at all or minimal fines are imposed. But in some countries where it is illegal to be gay, being caught can result in prison sentences ranging anywhere from months to life in prison and even death. There are 36 countries with prison sentences ranging up to 25 years, 6 countries that impose life in prison, and 7 countries with the death penalty. To proudly walk down the street carrying a banner of pride or support for the GLBT community is not an option for anyone in these countries. For some, to even be suspected of being gay can endanger them - as many are beaten to death before the law is even called. While we love the freedom that we have to march openly and we celebrate every small step we take towards equality for all Americans, we cannot ignore the plight of our brothers and sisters who face harsh sentences and even death just for being who they were created to be. We hope you will

something happening in the month of May. Here's a sneak peek at the music the choir is working on for the rest of the month:

May 1: "I Am But a Small Voice" is a powerful and beautiful anthem celebrating our power as individuals and in community as a united voice.

May 8: Kurt Zielenbach will be backed by our gospel choir in the Jason Robert Brown song "Music of Heaven."

May 15: While the choir takes the morning off to prepare for next week, enjoy "Laudamus Te" performed by two NUUC sopranos.

May 22: MUSIC SUNDAY featuring the NUUC Choir and musicians of all ages from the congregation.

Beginning May 29, the choir will be on a well-deserved break. Please let me know if you are interested in providing the music for any worship service in the summer months. Musicians of all voices, instruments, and ages are encouraged to share their talents.

Musically yours,

Marlene Hartzler

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Upcoming Events

Fair Trade Sale.

The Social Action Committee will hold its monthly Fair Trade Sale

join us on June 18th as we march in solidarity for all those who cannot.

Connie Grossman and Jeanne Casanova are again hosting a Pride "Wine & Sign" party at their home in Delaware on Saturday, June 11 at 6:00pm to make posters for the parade. This will be a 'covered dish' event with meat provided. Due to accessibility to open alcohol, this is an "adults only" event and you must be 21 to attend. All NUUC GLBT folks and allies are invited. Even if you can't march in the parade but would like to help make signs and show your support, you are welcome. We do ask that you RSVP.

There will be sign-up sheets for both the parade and party in the Fellowship Hall or you can email Connie and Jeanne at bumblebeeismydog@yahoo.com.

Lobby Day at Statehouse May 18

Equality Ohio sponsors Lobby Day on May 18, a time for us to be involved in the political process by speaking to our elected state senators and congressmen/women. This year's focus will be on safe schools legislation. The impetus is creating safe environments in our schools where bullying is NOT permitted. Please consider participating in this very worthwhile event. As you'll notice, it is on a Wednesday during the day. For more information, please go to www.equalityohio.org.

Red Lake Reservation Update

Let me say thank you all for your donations to the Red Lake Nation Project. Our partnership with the students of the Red Lake Nation is ongoing, and we continue to solicit and collect journals, gift cards, pens and pencils, underwear, and monies for the girls to purchase needed items.

I am still corresponding regularly with Donna Hrabcakova, our contact at the reservation, and she continues to express her gratitude for our outpouring of support. She reports she is able to use our monetary donations to buy groceries, deodorant, feminine supplies, more journals, hair supplies, cough drops, more underwear, and art and paper supplies. She is especially thankful to be able to help two homeless senior girls who have lost their mother, father and brother--some recently--and have been living place to place and are in great need to everything from clothes to food.

We will continue to collect items and if you wish you can bring in journals and gift cards to Target or Wal-Mart and place them in the box in Fellowship Hall, or you may make a cash donation by making your check out to North Unitarian Universalist Congregation and put "Red Lake Nation Project" in the memo line.

Also, mark your calendars! Donna will be here on Sunday, May 29 to offer a service where she'll speak of her life on the Reservation and our partnership with her students. It will be a special day as she shares with us first-hand how our ongoing support is helping these girls.

after the service on Sunday, May 8th (held the second Sunday of every month). Show Mom how much you care with a gift basket filled with fairly traded coffee, tea and delicious dark chocolates! See Brandy or Paul Montgomery for more info (brandy.montgomery@gmail.com)

News Bytes

NUUC T-Shirts Are Coming !

The first NUUC t-shirt order will be sent in early May. Shirts are available in your choice of green or blue. They will have our name, a chalice, and "25 years of covenant" on the front upper right and our covenant on the back. The cost is only \$9.00. Please contact Laura Howe (howe_l@yahoo.com) to order your size and color.

To all our "creative" NUUCers - white 100% cotton t-shirts with grey lettering will also be available for your tie-dying fun!

NUUC Directory

The NUUC Directory of Members and Friends was distributed via e-mail in late April to save printing and postage.

You can receive an electronic or paper copy at any time upon request; please contact Jeri Dill at nuucjdill@aol.com or 740-657-8081, ext. 1, noting whether you want to receive via e-mail or get a printed copy (please note whether you are able to pick it up at church to save postage or you need it mailed to you.)

Help us keep the directory information current--please notify Jeri if your address, phone, or e-mail information needs updating.

Projects for the Homeless

Yvonne Clippinger
yclippin@columbus.rr.com

Adopt a Flowerbed

You Can Adopt-a-Flowerbed

This year we will be doing a new activity called Adopt-a-Flowerbed. For this activity, we will divide all the flowerbeds around the church and Nielsen House up into 4-foot wide plots, and people can select one or more plots. Then you can plant flowers in your plot(s) and care and tend them during the growing season. Participants are encouraged to make "catchy" signs for their plot(s). Some of the names already being discussed include "Jan's Jungle," "Grimshaw's Gardens," "Keith's Korner," etc. Based on early enthusiastic reactions, we think this activity will be popular for old and young alike. It will be a particularly fun project to do with your children.

Since we don't know exactly how much of a response to expect though, we will first do an interest survey so we will know how many 4-foot plots people will desire. Then we can balance that number against the number of plots available. The interest survey will also ask if you would like plots around the church or Nielsen House and whether you'd like plots with sun or shade. The interest survey is posted now on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and will run through Sunday May 8th.

Then on Sunday May 15th, we will post the plot sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. This will be the actual sign-up for Adopt-a-Flowerbed. With this sign-up, you will get to select your specific plot(s) from a drawing showing all the available flowerbed plots.

Participants in the Adopt-a-Flowerbed activity are asked to abide by the following:

- 1) Only flowers should be planted, which can be either annuals or perennials.
But no bushes or trees (flowering or otherwise) should be planted.
- 2) No rocks or timbers should be placed on a plot.
- 3) Participants will be responsible to water, weed, and tend their flowerbed plot.

We'll have a sign-making activity at the Spring Spruce-up Day on Saturday June 4th for which all the materials will be provided to make signs for the flowerbed plots. We'll have bare wood sign cutouts, a wood burner to do lettering, paints, and sealer.

Jan Bourke originally suggested the Adopt-a-Flowerbed activity, and the more it has been discussed, the more interested people have become. The Building and Grounds Committee is organizing and administering the project. If you have questions, please contact Bob Keith at 740-369-1919 or bobkeith@frontier.com.

Volunteers Wanted

Summer Religious Education Assistants.

Rev. Ritchie is looking for volunteers to assistants with the summer time religious education program. No preparation required--





Sleeping Bag Project: If you have used (but stain-free) towels and washcloths that you would like to get rid of, please consider donating them to "Share" for their use in making sleeping bags for the homeless. (Other items that are needed are fabric, blankets, and men's ties.) Donation is easy-just leave the items on the white desk in the corner of Fellowship Hall with a note marked "for Share project."

Personal Care and Clothing: "Share" has also sent out appeals for help with toiletry and personal care items and warm men's clothes in good, clean condition. Toiletry items especially needed are: new or gently used washcloths/towels; toothpaste/brushes; *men's deodorant; disposable razors; *men's socks; safety pins; sewing kits (Dollar Tree has great name brand health items!). There is also a great need for Men's jeans, long johns and sweat pants. They need fleece and sweat shirts too....

(Please note women on the streets usually wear men's clothing because it's warmer, and will use men's toiletry items, but men won't use women's)



the assigned teacher will handle the program-- you can just enjoy it with the kids! Sign up for even just one Sunday--it all helps.

RevRitchie@aol.com



Refreshments: One NUUC tradition that carries on week to week is coffee, cookies, and conversation after services. A very special thank you to all of you who have taken a turn at setting up and clean-up after our weekly refreshment tasks this year. The process is easy--all you have to do is follow instructions that are already posted in the kitchen on where everything is and how to make coffee. And then clean up after and put things back. Everything is provided for you. (But, feel free to try out a new cookie recipe or bring a dessert left from a meeting or family function!) We are currently scheduling through April--see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for available dates, or please contact Teri Cornell at imuuteri@yahoo.com or 614-891-59.

June 6 blood donation sign up sheet is now up in Fellowship Hall

Did you know: The Central Ohio Blood Services Region serves 27 counties, and needs to collect about 650 pints of blood each day to meet patient need in 41 hospitals? In addition to providing blood to our community, the American Red Cross also provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts. NUUC contributes to southern Delaware County's reputation of having the most donated blood contributed in the region. Surgeries are scheduled based blood donation quotas set by the Red Cross at the various contribution sites. To meet our quota, we must schedule at least twenty donors for June 6. To schedule an appointment to donate, you may sign up for a time on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org for more information. If you would like to volunteer to help with the blood drive on June 6 or you have any questions, contact John Rodeheffer via email (jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com) or call 740-369-9659

Spring Spruce-up Day on Saturday June 4th... Mark your calendars

On Saturday June 4th, we will be holding Spring Spruce-up Day to get both the church and Nielsen House ready for summer. We'll be working in the morning and early afternoon and doing a variety of tasks both indoors and outdoors. Please consider helping out on this day. You could work for a few hours, half a day, or more... whatever works best for you. Any help will be appreciated. If June 4th doesn't fit your schedule, you can select a task and do it when you can. Look for the sign-up sheet and list of tasks posted in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about this event, please contact a member of the Building & Grounds Committee (Bob Keith, Don Dillemath, Roger Orwick, John Rodeheffer, or Gary Rusk).

Mowing Volunteers Still Needed

The Building & Grounds Committee is requesting help with the mowing. They would like to get a volunteer each month from the congregation to mow just one time during the months of May through October. The other weeks will be handled by B&G Committee volunteers. Please consider volunteering to mow one time this season. If you are interested, you can sign up on the mowing sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Just pick a date that works for your schedule. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Bob Keith at 740-369-1919 or bobkeith@frontier.com.

Shop for NUUC

The Delaware County Community Market is a fascinating new venture in downtown Delaware. A year-round, non-profit market, you can shop there for groceries, handmade foods and other items, and household goods, and then direct 20% of the profits to your favorite non-profit. (Yes, NUUC is on the list of nonprofits to choose from!) The market is open 7 days a week (10-6 weekdays and 10-4 weekends). For more information, go to www.dccmc.com.

Our Kroger rewards continue to add up - NUUC received \$235.77 in Rewards in March. Way to shop, NUUC! If you haven't already registered (or renewed) your Kroger Plus card with the Community Rewards program, please consider designating NUUC as your recipient. Individual participation must be renewed annually, so be sure you have updated your record. If you haven't registered or need to update your participation: Go to <http://www.kroger.com> and select Kroger Community Rewards at the bottom of the page. You'll need your account information or your Plus card number to complete the registration. It is a little cumbersome, but the sooner you do it the sooner your purchases start counting toward another nice donation from Kroger. (Should you need it, our NUUC Nonprofit Organization Number is 84869).

Loose Change Update

Your Social Action Committee will continue its "Loose Change" project in 2011 by collecting your loose coins during the worship service on Sunday, May 8, as it has on the second Sunday of each month throughout the past several years.

April's Loose Change collection (\$87.48) benefited the "No More Deaths" campaign, a bi-national movement of individuals, faith communities, human rights advocates, and grassroots organizations who have come together to stop migrant deaths in the desert. NMD projects include maintaining a humanitarian presence in the desert, conducting search and rescue patrols, staffing migrant centers, and clinics in Northern Mexico. For more information go to nomoredeaths.org

The Loose Change collection May is earmarked for Act Out Delaware www.actoutdel.org; June's proceeds will benefit the Red Lake Nation project (see article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details about our ongoing commitment to the Red Lake Nation).

Additional deserving recipients of our monthly Loose Change collections are always under discussion. For questions regarding the "Loose Change" project or to suggest a recipient, contact Chair Tracy Steinbrenner at tracystein@att.net or any member of your Social Action Committee.

Guest at Your Table Update

Because coordinator Marty Keith received two individual gifts of \$100.00 since the publication of the last newsletter, the updated amount of money NUUC contributed to the UUSC was \$2,072.12. With the matching of gifts \$100 or more provided by the U.U. Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, N.Y., the new NUUC total for the 2011 campaign is \$3,672.12. Thanks, everyone!

