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February 2012

InTurnings

A few weeks ago I shared parts of my spiritual journey with you during Sunday morning worship. My path into a regular prayer practice has been a bumpy ride. I have been doubtful, suspicious, and pleasantly surprised by my forays into various forms of prayer. Prayer has helped me to feel connected to a deep history of spiritual practice, and to all those who have been praying throughout time. But at other times I fall into wondering what I am doing and why. In those moments I lose the sense of connection and interdependence I try to live within. Sometimes I give up praying and other times I nudge myself to go on. The practice of prayer is what seems to be important. It is not important to get it right or say the right words. I am not aiming for a perfect prayer. I am simply practicing. Daily, if possible!

I have been experimenting with prayer off and on for about four years. It is a fairly new spiritual practice in my life. There is another spiritual practice I'd like to share with you: A three day spiritual fast.

I fast for three days the first week of April. I abstain from eating solid foods (and fiddling around on my computer). I drink diluted fruit juices, vegetable broth, herbal tea, and water. During the fast I consider the question, "What do I truly hunger for?" I reflect upon that which I crave. I think about what sustains me. I remember the fast of Ramadan that my Muslim friends, students, and teaching colleagues practiced in Guinea, West Africa.

This yearly fast is a spiritual quest set apart from the rest of the year to focus on Spirit, on God, the Holy, what is most sacred in life. It is time to consider those unanswerable questions of life. We may all hunger for the Spirit or hunger to know that which we cannot know. It may be difficult to be in touch with our deeper spiritual hunger if we are consistently satiated with food. Many of us stuff ourselves with food in an attempt to feed another kind of hunger that

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Annual Meeting: March 11

Your Board has called a Congregational Meeting for after the service on March 11 for the purpose of recognizing our able and worthy outgoing Board members; to elect new members to the Board (the Nominating Committee is reviewing candidates now); and to deliver the Annual Reports of the committees (sitter service extended until 12:15p). All are welcome to attend, though only Members may vote.

Social Justice

The NUUC Social Action Committee typically meets the first Sunday of the month after service. The next meeting will be on the (special) date of Sunday, February 5, 2012, after service in the vestibule off the sanctuary. For more information, please feel free to attend a committee meeting or talk to any member of your Social Action Committee. Contact Chair Tracy Steinbrenner at tracystein@att.net for

cannot be satisfied with food. This fast is the time to empty ourselves of food and feel that deep hunger within a sacred community of fellow fasters.

A fast can be a time of self examination. The hunger we feel may awaken things we keep buried inside. A fast may make us more introspective. A fast can be a time to delve into ourselves, our hungers. A fast can help us realize how dependent we are on food and the Earth that provides us with sustenance. It lets us appreciate the wondrous gift of life. It humbles us with realization of what hunger feels like. A fast alters our consciousness by letting us practice patience and nonattachment. It empowers us to break long-lived habits. It binds us to our commitments. A fast improves our ability to discriminate between those foods that are better for our health and those that are not.

One of the best parts of this particular three-day fast is the community that develops between those who fast together. There is a bond that forms between those fasting together, an appreciation for each other's shared and individual experiences. The fast becomes a shared journey, an adventure. And the fast-breaking shared meal of fresh fruit is a delight! Those first bites... have you ever tasted food so good!

What do you hunger for? (Find out April 2 - 5, 2012!)

Snowy blessings,

Rachel

Intern Minister

Music Notes

Calling all recorder players! I know there are many of you in the congregation, so let's form a NUUC recorder ensemble. We will meet three or four times to work on some music. When the ensemble is ready, we will perform for a Sunday worship service. Rehearsal days and times will be agreed upon by the group. We need soprano, alto, tenor, and bass recorder players. Members should be able to read music and be familiar with recorder fingerings. We have some instruments to loan if you need one. Contact Marlene via email or phone (below) if you are interested.

Here is what the NUUC Choir is preparing for worship services during the month of February:

Feb. 5: "Ma Navu"

Feb. 12: "I Am a Small Part of the World"

Feb. 19: Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah"

Feb. 26: "Two Shaker Songs"

Yours,

Marlene Hartzler, Music Director

marlenemetz@yahoo.com

740 972-2264

questions or to reconfirm the next meeting date. Won't you join us?

Fair Trade Sale: February 12

The Social Action Committee will hold its monthly Fair Trade Sale on Sunday, February 12 (held the second Sunday of most months). Give your loved ones an extra special treat with a dark chocolate with caramel and sea salt bar! Or fill their valentines with the dark chocolate minis! Several varieties of coffees and teas will be available. Coffee and tea flavors vary each month, so be sure to check back at each sale to see what is new. See Brandy or Paul Montgomery for more information (brandy.montgomery@gmail.com).

Coming Soon!

NUUC will again be offering an adult education course on "Immigration as a Moral Issue" using the curriculum developed by the UUA. Topics will address: Causes of Migration; Economics of Immigration; Security, Enforcement, and Human Rights; Who Benefits from a Broken System?; and Seeking Solutions. Immigration justice is the focus of the 2012 UUGA and will be an important issue in the upcoming presidential election. Look for more information about this opportunity to learn about a complex issue that impacts all of us.

Save the Dates

Monday, April 2,
6:00PM: Fast
Commencement
Thursday, April 5,
6:00PM: Fast Closing
Meal

Intern Minister, Rachel
Baker, invites you to

Why Don't People Immigrate Legally?

Ramon's father worked for a US airbase in the Philippines which made the family eligible for visas. Ramon was left behind. He'd just turned 21 which put him in a different visa category with a much longer wait - a wait that turned into 9 years. When his mother became ill with cancer, Ramon was not permitted to visit. U.S. law does not allow relatives who have petitioned to live in the US permanently to visit their family. While he was waiting for his visa, Ramon and his girlfriend, Ana, had a son. They had not been able to legally marry because that would have started his visa process all over. However, since the Philippines is devoutly Catholic, they had faked their wedding. Ana was a nurse and had taken an oath to be a role model at the hospital where she worked. When she was pressured to produce a marriage certificate, she had to quit her job. After Ramon's visa came through, he married Ana. For 2 ½ years, they have communicated by Web cam and Ramon visits when he can. The wait for visas could be another 4 years.

Vijay Kumar answered an ad to help rebuild oil rigs destroyed by Katrina. With the promise of "permanent lifetime settlement in the U.S. for self and family", Kumar sold his house and his wife's jewelry, and borrowed money from friends. He signed a contract and paid \$20,000 to a recruiter. When Kumar reached the Mississippi, he discovered that he had been hired as a temporary "guest" worker with a 10 month visa and no possibility of obtaining permanent residency.

U.S. immigration policy makes it very difficult for people to immigrate legally. Families are often forced to live apart for years because of economic need and the desire for a better life for their children. Go to www.uua.org/documents/washingtonoffice/immigration/welcoming.pdf to learn more about the impact of immigration policy on families and the need for immigration reform.

See the flowchart on the bulletin board at NUUC to find out how long the waiting period for a permanent residency visa can be for people trying to immigrate legally.

OMD Phoenix Witness Project

The OMD Phoenix Witness Fund was featured in an online UU World article this week. You can find the article at <http://uuworld.org/news/articles/191575.shtml> You can find more information about the program on the OMD website at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/pwp>.

join her in a yearly spiritual fast. See more information in this month's InTurnings.

News Bytes



NUUC Directory

The winter/spring 2012 update of the NUUC Directory of Members and Friends was recently delivered to your mailboxes! Distribution is primarily by e-mail in order to save printing and postage. However, if you prefer, you can receive a paper copy of the directory at any time upon request. To make a request, please contact Jeri Dill in the office at nuucjdill@aol.com or call her at 740-657-8081, ext. 1 (please advise whether you are able to pick it up at church to save postage or you need it mailed to you.)

To ensure the directory and church records are kept up-to-date, please notify Jeri if your address, phone, or e-mail information needs updating.

Interested in Membership?

If you would like to learn more about UU or join the congregation, watch for the next "Orientation to our Congregation" session. Join Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie and a Membership Committee representative as they explain

Board of Trustee's Report

"We are an inclusive community of seekers pursuing deeper meaning through the process of spiritual engagement, learning, reasoning, and action." ~the Mission of NUUC
 The board meeting began with lighting the chalice and reciting the mission statement. We reviewed and approved the last meeting minutes. Then we moved on to the treasurer's reports from December and the end of the 2011. As we looked forward to the 2012 budget we discussed methods to balance the deficit budget. Jeff Hill worked with the board to create a vision statement and core values of the congregation. We closed the meeting by listening to the responses of this meeting's "process observers."

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for December 2011

Outlined below is a summary of the financial report presented to members of your Finance Committee and Board of Trustees for the month of December, 2011:

	Actual \$ Received and Paid	Budget (Planned Receipts and Payment s)
December, 2011		
2011 Pledge Offerings	15,490	12,419
Non-Pledge Offerings	2,231	0
Rental Revenue	355	900
Ways and Means-Fundraising	126	353
Total Income	18,202	13,672
Total Expenses	13,944	13,672
Year-to-Date		
2010 Pledge Offerings	4,665	0
2011 Pledge Offerings	138,120	149,022
Non-Pledge Offerings	12,733	0
Rental Revenue	5,927	10,800
Ways and	3,688	4,235

the denomination's (and our congregation's) history and the meaning of membership. If you would like to join the congregation after or prior to the next scheduled Orientation, please contact Rev. Ritchie RevRitchie@aol.com or 740-657-8081, ext. 2. Babysitter service available upon advance request.

NUUC Has Gone "Green"

Have you heard the saying: "When you throw something away, where is 'away'?" By now you're probably aware of the recycling bins located in the kitchen off Fellowship Hall. Bins are available to sort and recycle glass, plastic (#1 & #2), aluminum, and paper/cardboard. And new this month-- Recycling at home? You can now bring your aluminum cans to church and they will be taken to be recycled for you! You may leave them in a bag on the back deck of the church. Bob Keith has graciously offered to take them with the rest of the cans we are recycling. The cash back we receive will go back to the church and we will all be reducing our impact on the earth! It's amazing how much "trash" a small group of people can recycle! If you have questions or suggestions please contact Cathy Rodeheffer at rodeheffer_cathy@yahoo.com

Shop for NUUC

The Delaware County Community Market is a fascinating new venture in downtown Delaware. A year-round, non-profit market you

Means-Fundraising

	165,1	
Total Income	33	164,057
	163,8	
Total Expenses	07	164,057

Respectfully submitted,
Koralleen Stavish
Treasurer

Loose Change Collections

Your Social Action Committee will continue its "Loose Change" project into 2012 by collecting your loose coins during the worship service on Sunday, February 12, as it has on the second Sunday of each month throughout the past several years.

The Loose Change collection for January benefited the "Out of the Darkness" project, a community-based fund raising arm of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. NUUC had a table at the

2010 Walk in Columbus, where we increased awareness of our faith tradition and introduced many people to The Trevor Project. For more information, please visit www.outofthedarkness.org.

The February and March Loose Change collections will benefit the "Solar Sister" arm of the Himalayan Light Foundation (www.hlf.org)--a nonprofit group based in Kathmandu, Nepal-which provides solar power generators to remote villages in the Himalayan foothills. See story elsewhere in this month's newsletter for more details about this group and our own Barb Lubberger's planned trip to Nepal!

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.

2012 Loose Change Collection Recap Month Collected \$ Amount Donated to: Total

January \$ 96.00 Out of the Darkness \$ 96.00

February \$ _____ Solar Sisters

(Himalayan Light

March \$ _____ Foundation)

Volunteers Needed

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.

Could you spare a bit of time some Sunday to help? The

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.

Reminder: Renew your Kroger Plus Cards

Our Kroger rewards continue to add up...we recently received a Rewards check in the amount of \$105.72 - way to go, NUUC shoppers! 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).

Thanks for Your Faithful Giving!

Your faithful and consistent

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 (if you don't know how). 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!)

This is the perfect opportunity to work as a couple, or grab a friend to help. If everyone took a turn, no one would have to do it every week. And it's fun! We are currently scheduling through April 2012-see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for available date. For questions, please contact Jan Bourke at jdb135@wowway.com or Teri Cornell at imuuteri@yahoo.com.

Religious Education Volunteers Needed!

Our Winter/spring 2012 children's religious education classes are underway, and we'd like to invite members and friends of the congregation to get involved with RE. Passing on our liberal religious values to our children is one of the most important things we can do. And it is fun too!

Would you like to teach or assist the religious education classes this spring? Specifically, we are still looking for:

One teacher for pre-school age class

Two assistants for the 6 - 11 year olds

We'd like to express our deep gratitude to the lead teachers and assistants who have been sharing their Sundays with the children and youth of this congregation. Your generosity is building the future of Unitarian Universalism!

If you are interested in helping, please contact Rev. Susan Ritchie at RevRitchie@aol.com or Intern Minister Rachel Baker at internministernuuc@gmail.com.

Thank you for all that you do!

Youth Laser Tag and Sleepover Gathering

Youth from NUUC and First UU Church of Columbus played Laser Tag and then had a sleepover party on January 15th. Fifteen kids attended, although some attended for the evening activities, some for the sleepover only, and some for both. After two rousing games of Laser Tag, the kids went to the Rosenberg home. Kids played games to get to know each other, pondered the meaning of compassion, and discussed the value of belonging to a youth group. They decided on two service projects. The first one is to make cookies and coffee for after service on February 5th. They also decided to volunteer at the Mid Ohio Food Bank on February 16th.

The next Youth Group meeting is February 12, 6:30 - 8:30pm at the Rosenberg's home. After that they meet March 11 at the Rodeheffer's, same time. You may email Melinda Rosenberg for directions at Rosenberg21@sbcglobal.net. All

giving is so appreciated and necessary to staying on budget.

Remember: you can always mail in an offering or pledge check, even if your schedule keeps you away from services. Just mail it to: NUUC, Attn: JGD, P. O. Box 541, Lewis Center, OH 43035 (please note the postal service will NOT deliver to our physical address, so be sure to use the post office box address).

Annual statements for the 2011 tax year (for giving through December 31, 2011) will be in the mail any day now. If you have any questions about your 2011 or 2012 planned giving or other pledging matters, feel free to call the church office at 740-657-8081 and talk to Rev. Ritchie (RevRitchie@aol.com) or Jeri Dill (nuucjdill@aol.com).

youth are welcome.

Intern Minister Rachel Baker and Melinda Rosenberg are working with the Youth Group meetings outside of church.

Guest at Your Table

This month we begin "Guest at Your Table," which has been a program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee since 1975. The program encourages us to think about actively helping humanity by donating money, perhaps a little each night at the dinner table or in a lump sum at the end of the month.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a nonsectarian organization that promotes human rights and social justice everywhere in various ways. It partners with grassroots movements worldwide engaged in alleviating the struggles of indigenous peoples and oppressed racial and ethnic groups. The UUSC also provides financial and technical help during humanitarian crises such as natural disasters, environmental devastation, and effects of war and other violence. The UUSC is an associate member of the Unitarian Universalist Association but gets no general financial support from the UUA.

The UUSC follows the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

The four major program areas of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee are

Advancing economic justice--Defending workers' rights, supporting living wage campaigns and fair trade practices (for example, supporting small farmers and producers through the UUSC Coffee Project)

Advocating environmental justice--Holding governments accountable for providing adequate clean water to all citizens, challenging water privatization that restricts water availability to vulnerable citizens, and supporting education about environmental stewardship

Defending civil liberties--Supporting freedoms of speech, assembly, and religious worship; defending rights of privacy and due process; opposing state-sponsored torture

Responding to humanitarian crises--Caused by natural disasters and the effects of war, genocide, and ethnic cleansing

Funds collected during the Guest at Your Table campaign will further UUSC's efforts in all these areas.

Members of NUUC's Social Action Committee will be speaking about Guest at Your Table on February 5 (when the campaign begins), February 12, 19, 26, and March 4. Please be open to learning more about UUSC and its work, and please welcome a Guest at your tables this next month!

Got Stuff!

How about some good stuff? Maybe you have some objects of art, glassware, cookware, furniture, clothing, or whatever that you enjoyed once but no longer use. NUUC will be holding our first giant rummage sale in years on a Friday and Saturday in August! Please consider donating some of your stuff to the NUUC Rummage Sale. Now is not too early to start storing away (instead of throwing away) items you think will sell and therefore benefit our congregation. As the date approaches, we can arrange to have your big items picked up and taken to Fellowship Hall.

Also, please feel free to volunteer your services to arrange and price items and to staff the sale each day. For questions about NUUC's Rummage sale, contact the organizers Bob and Marty Keith (bobkeith@frontier.com and martykeith@frontier.com).

Outreach to Nepal

NUUC frequently shines its social action light on those in need close to home, but sometimes there is an opportunity to shine it farther afield--literally! The "Solar Sisters" arm of the Himalayan Light Foundation (www.hlf.org)--a nonprofit group based in Kathmandu, Nepal--provides solar power generators to remote villages in the Himalayan foothills, where electrification is still 7-15 years away. The portable units are used primarily for lighting in schools and clinics. In late March, NUUC member Barb Lubberger and her son, Tom Tekieli, will be helping to deliver and install two of these units at the Shree Janakeshari Primary School in Kumlung Village, northeast of Pokhara. This school serves 35 children aged 4-7. (Older children hike one hour to another village to attend middle/high school.) The February and March "Loose Change" collections will go toward this project.

Also, if you would like to contribute more, there will be a box at the front door of the sanctuary throughout February. For more information, please contact Barb at blubberg@wowway.com or 614-246-6461.

Special Appeal for Montana de Luz Orphanage

The "wish list" from the staff of Montana de Luz Orphanage: Request is ongoing. Items needed:

Personal Care Items (please, no trial sizes):

Shampoo Conditioner

Hair gel Lotion

Razors Soap

Bug repellent Body Wash

Shoe polish Toothpaste

Nail clippers Hair stuff for girls

Hair stuff for girls

Diapers in size 4 and 6 (for a toddler who is 2 and a 9 year old girl with Cerebral Palsy)

School supply needs:

Pocket folders

Sketch books

Tracing paper

Book bags and Backpacks

Pencils and Pencil bags

Markers

Pencil sharpeners

Erasers

Rulers

Compasses

Protractors

White out

Liquid glue

Scissors

Popsicle sticks

Pens in blue, black and red

Printer paper

Masking tape

Dry erase markers

HP 60 ink color and black

Stapler

Legal size envelopes

Flash drives

School starts in February but the orphanage will gratefully accept donations anytime and send them with service teams traveling to MDL! Drop donations in the box in Fellowship Hall or see Erika Shell De Castro. Thank you! Erika

Erika@montanadeluz.org

614-848-8077 office 614-403-8755 cell