



Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis Newsletter
UU Eye

Volume 29
Number 3
October 8, 2008

Sunday, October 12, 2008

“A Denomination? Not Exactly; an Association? You Bet!”

Rev. Barbara Child

I was so pleased when I learned that folks here at UII were making a wonderful banner to send off to Tennessee in support of the Knoxville UUs after the horrific murders in their sanctuary in July. A tragedy like that does have a way of bringing people together in more solidarity than is common on ordinary days. I'm interested though in what it means for us to be an Association of Congregations *every day* – not just one insular congregation after another. Worship Associate: **Robin Riebsomer**. The UII Choir will sing *I Am But a Small Voice*.

Sunday, October 19, 2008

“Living Together in the Wilderness”

Rev. Barbara Child

How can we be together “in the wilderness” while we search and experiment in this life? What do we need from each other? What might be worth it for us to promise each other as common commitments to enable us to be vulnerable with each other and feel safe enough to stretch and risk? And, after all, what do you need as a congregation to be able to engage your unknown future with zest and enthusiasm? Worship Associate: **Matt Socey**. The UII Vocal Ensemble will sing *We Will Be a Shelter for Each Other*.

Sunday, October 26, 2008

“The Church of Baseball”

How baseball (and sports in general), like church, can mean so much to a person's identity. Worship Associates: **Matt Socey** and **Jenni White**. The Children's Choir, directed by **Carol Kirk**, will sing a medley, *Look for the Silver Lining* and *Sunny Side Up*.

Sunday, November 2, 2008

“A Day for Stepping Over Thresholds”

Rev. Barbara Child

The Halloween costumes most in keeping with this past Friday's holiday are skeletons and ghosts, since Halloween, like All Saints Day, All Souls Day, and the Day of the Dead on different people's religious calendars, celebrates a day devoted to the dead. These are complicated holidays – filled with a fascinating mix of humor and quite serious memorials. By today you have put your Halloween costume away. Please bring a photograph or other memento of someone beloved in your memory. We will prepare an altar to display and honor them. Children are especially encouraged to bring special mementos to display. Worship Associate: **Jim Hermiller**. Special music: UII Folk Ensemble and Guitar Circle.

In the Meantime— Rev. Barbara Child Interim Minister

This past week began the wonderful informal gatherings sponsored by the Transition Team that we are calling “Get to Know the Interim Minister.” I’m having a grand time. I’ve even taken along the little statuette an old friend made of me in harlequin garb upside down and about to tumble over the side of a cliff to smell a flower – Barbara as the Fool on the first Tarot card!

It’s been fascinating for me to discover what people want to ask me, and I appreciate it that some of the questions are about me and some are about interim ministry. The other day in one of these gatherings, we talked about why the congregation will have a two-year interim period and the fact that the Board and I will decide together early in 2009 whether I will stay for the second year. The important threshold question was: Why two years? Why not go into search this year for a new called minister?

Well, to put it simply, an interim period of two years rather than one is more and more the norm in UU congregations. For a one-year search, you would have had to get a ministerial search committee in place last spring, have surveyed the congregation’s opinions on a whole raft of things over the summer, and have the current comprehensive picture of UUI and its ministerial needs ready for ministers in search – right about now!

There is not one thing wrong with not being there now. I see you being appropriately ready to select a ministerial search committee in the spring. By then, with my assistance as consultant, you surely will have made good progress on your interim tasks:

- claiming and honoring your past and acknowledging and engaging your griefs and conflicts;
- recognizing your current identity, strengths, needs, and challenges;
- understanding appropriate leadership roles of minister, staff, and lay leaders, and navigating the shifts in leadership that are natural in time of transition;
- making appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources;
- reaching beyond the dominant culture to include the multicultural world in social service and social justice; and
- renewing your vision, strengthening stewardship, and preparing for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.

It’s a tall order, yes! And we are well into it, and you are well up to it. I rejoice in the unfolding of this interim year with you!

Barbara

Interim Minister’s Hours

Rev. Barbara Child, the Interim Minister, seeks to be available for appointments as needed. You may reach her by phone at the church office (317-283-4760), by e-mail to minister@uui.org, or by her cell phone (812-345-4506). She is not available on Mondays except in case of emergency.

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 A.M. Childcare will be provided.

Church of the warm heart, open mind, and helping hands

Board of Trustees— *Mervyn Cohen*

The Road Less Traveled

When you drive to UUI on Sunday or go to work during the week, most of you will take the same route you have always taken. We all find great comfort from our established routines. Is this necessarily the best way to travel through life—staying within our comfort zones? Are we being too cautious with this approach?

Janet and I love to attend UU Sunday services when we travel. We recently had the opportunity to visit a UU Sunday service in Orlando. The church campus was familiar, with several buildings and many trees. We were warmly met at the door by one of their members. We chatted—they were one week away from an interim minister starting. All this was very familiar and comforting. This great comfort did not last long. Many aspects of their service were just not what we were used to. It was different from our usual UUI Sunday service. Did they not know how to run a service? Were they making mistakes?

Their Vision statement was very different: “We are a dynamic, democratic and diverse religious community, committed to lifelong spiritual growth and compassionate service.” The seven principles are printed on the back page of the order of service. They have a quiet moment of meditation during which all members of the congregation hold the hands of people next to them. Joys and concerns are submitted prior to the service and read from the pulpit. All new visitors stand at the same time and members of the congregation go to them to chat for a few minutes. Applause is silent and achieved by holding both hands up at about head level and waving them from side to side. Every service always ends with the singing of *Spirit of Life*. After the service there is coffee. Their social hall has many cupboards which are opened for the sale of stored clothing, household items and books. Cakes are also sold. Board members all wear special nametags, so that congregation members can identify and chat with them.

As we left the church Janet and I chatted and realized that we had really enjoyed many of the differences. The road less traveled helped us to appreciate that change can be refreshing and is not something to fear. There are many different ways of traveling—none the right way or the wrong way. We realized that change is not to be feared. In fact, during our Sunday service at UUI we often sing the hymn *Enter, Rejoice and Come In*. This hymn contains words of wisdom for all of us: “Don’t be afraid of some change...”

Mervyn

Fall Congregational Meeting

The fall Congregational Meeting will be held after church on **Sunday, November 2**, in the Sanctuary. We encourage all members to attend. The meeting will feature a presentation entitled Consultation on Membership by our interim minister **Rev. Barbara Child**, which will kick off a series of workshops that will be held throughout the church year on this important topic. The presentation at the Congregational Meeting will address:

- what it means to people to be a member of this church
- whether it’s easy or hard to be a member (and which it should be)
- the meaning of membership in UU congregations as determined by a UUA Commission on Appraisal report
- expectations of members as reported in a survey by the Alban Institute
- possible changes to ponder in the way UUI “does membership.”

UUI Board of Trustees

David Jackoway, President djackoway@gmail.com

Eric Hinkle, Vice-President

Susan Pratt, Secretary

Ken Chestek, Treasurer kchestek@iupui.edu

Susan Cassada, Carlyn Johnson, Lowell

McCoskey, John Cote, Mervyn Cohen, Bill

Watts, Jan Eason, past president

Religious Education Family Ministry Team Member— *Holly Hendrickson*

Did you know 80 youth and adults just spent the weekend at UUI? October 3-5 our church hosted “CON tagious,” the 2nd annual ingathering youth conference for the Heartland UU District. This event was planned by our own **Leslie Massicotte**, and attended by high-school-age youth from UU churches from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and of course, Indiana. UUI was well represented as participants, workshop leaders, and staff. The attendees enjoyed worship, meals, Frisbee, music, and workshops such as folk dancing, silk mandala painting, cookie baking, revisions to the UU principles, the presidential race, and a discussion of the experience of living on minimum wage. They washed dishes together, applauded each other’s talents at “Coffee House,” and explored what it means to be in a community together. Each youth and adult signed a covenant of behavioral expectations. Everyone followed the rules. Everyone helped out. Youth were empowered, adults treated with respect. Friendships were fostered, religious community developed, and future plans discussed.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the adults who made this happen. The youth know what a wonderful experience a “Con” is, and are deeply committed to making them happen. But without adults, Cons can’t take place. Drivers are needed to bring the youth to the host church. Chaperones must stay the weekend and sleep on hard floors and forego showers. Adults supervise the sleeping areas, and even stay up all night to ensure safety. The adults who volunteer for Cons are a special bunch, people who know the importance of these events to our youth and our religious movement. We at UUI are blessed with a supportive community of adults. One Michigan church youth group called every adult in its church directory trying to find someone to drive and chaperone its group this weekend when their driver had to back out at the last minute! Sadly, they were unable to make the trip because no one stepped forward.

That would not happen at UUI! I know because I saw the flexibility of church groups meeting in the Cottage over the weekend because their usual space was occupied by teenagers. I know because I saw the number of UUI workshop leaders giving their time and expertise. I know because our members provided all-night supervision and first-aid back-up. I know because our parents brought their kids and coped with sleep-deprived grumpy teenagers on Sunday and helped them come down from the high of a Con back to homework and chores.

The weekend’s spirit was truly “contagious.” Well done, UUI!

Holly

Slide Projector Help Needed

Our Whole Lives (OWL), the comprehensive sexuality education program that UUI offers to our youth, needs some slide projection help. We have a projector but it’s not functional. We need to either locate another slide projector (this kind of cutting-edge technology isn’t available just anywhere anymore!) or identify someone who can fix the one we have. If anyone can help, please contact UUI’s OWL coordinator, **Shellie Rich**, at **352-1801** or shellieek@yahoo.com.

CUUPs

CUUPs (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) meet the second and fourth **Thursdays** of the month at **7 P.M.** in the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall. If weather permits we may be behind the Sanctuary under the large spreading tree.

We are an open group pursuing an Earth-Based path. Everyone is welcome. Please be prepared to join in discussions (even if you do not feel you know anything).

Snacks or drink to share are nice but not necessary. Please contact **Colleen Kelly** (woglett@gmail.com; 603-0026) or **Robin Chestek** (280-1354) if you have questions or simply want more information.

Creating A Beloved Community Right Here, Right Now

4 Wednesday evening gatherings
for reflection, personal sharing, and discussion
with **Rev. Barbara Child**
7 - 9 P.M. in the Social Hall

Nov. 5: Telling the Truth about Who We Are – or “What’s in a Name?”

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Fellowship? A Unitarian Universalist Church? A Beloved Community? Which is UUI, or are you something else altogether? What difference does it make?

Nov. 12: Journeying Together – or “You Can’t Be a UU By Yourself”

What is the effect of being covenantal rather than creedal? What does it mean to be a welcoming congregation? What does it mean to be a genuine community in right relation with others? What do the Unitarian Universalist Association and the District have to do with it?

Nov. 19: Getting Out the Door – or “Ain’t We Got Good News?”

How do Unitarian Universalists go about being in a world full of people who are not Unitarian Universalist – or not UU yet? What about the ones who are UU without knowing it? What’s the difference between articulating or living our faith and proselytizing?

Dec. 3: Looking Ahead – or “Is the Future Safe with Us?”

What are people saying about the future of organized religion in general and Unitarian Universalism in particular? What do our congregations and our faith need to thrive? Are they worth investing in? What is your vision for the future here? Quick now, what does your mission statement say? Does it express a purpose that you put into action together?

Recommended background reading: *Growing a Beloved Community: Twelve Hallmarks of a Healthy Congregation* by **Tom Owen-Towle** and *The Almost Church: Redefining Unitarian Universalism for a New Era* by **Michael Durall**.

To register: Call **317-283-4760** or e-mail office@uui.org

Maximum participants: first 25 registered

Introduction to Nonviolent Communication

A free workshop on Nonviolent Communication™ at Home, Work and in Our Communities will be held in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, October 19**, from **2:30 - 4:30 P.M.**, facilitated by **Albert Schinazi** of Integrative Solutions. This process guides us to reframe how we express ourselves and how we hear others, in a way that greatly increases the chances of inspiring compassionate communication. Perhaps most importantly, the process helps us relate to **ourselves** with more understanding and compassion, thus freeing more of our creative energy and resulting in more happiness at home, success at work, and effectiveness in contributing to positive social change in our communities. The workshop is highly interactive, educational, and inspiring. It is open to the public.

Credo Forum

Sunday, November 2, 9:15 to 10:15 A.M., Cottage Music Room

Does Science Make Belief in God Obsolete?

This is the second of the “Big Questions” that was posed by the **John Templeton** Foundation to a group of leading scientists and scholars. We invite you to this special forum discussion to share your thoughts with us. If you would like to read some opinions online first, check this website: <http://www.templeton.org/questions/purpose>. We always welcome new faces and new ideas. For more information contact **David Jackoway** at 844-7193 or **Lowell McCoskey** at 253-3025.

Draft Revision of UUA Principles Membership Open - Wisdom Circle

Please join us after church on **Sunday, October 12**, in the Cottage Music Room as we formulate UUI’s congregational response to the draft revision of the UU Principles. Our interim minister, **Rev. Barbara Child**, led the UUA’s project for reviewing and revising Article II of the UUA bylaws, which includes the section on the principles. The draft is available online at <http://www.uua.org/coa>. Please read it and then share your opinions with us on October 12.

Popular Event

Have Fun—Eat Food—Support Your Church

The annual Service Auction will be held **Saturday, October 18**, at the church, with the silent auction at **6 P.M.** and the live auction at **7 P.M.**

The \$5 entrance fee buys you delicious food and drink, and a chance to bid on wonderful items and services donated by UUI members and friends.

You can help by signing up to attend, to help the auction committee, or to donate. Donations must be pledged by **Sunday, October 12**. See **Colleen Skole** at the auction table before and after services up until October 12, or call Colleen at **596-9771**.

Meet Rev. Barbara Child

The last *Get to Know the Interim Minister* gathering will be held on **Sunday, October 19**, after the service in the Commons from **12 noon to 2 P.M.** All are welcome. (**Kim Beck**)

The UUI Wisdom Circle Group meets to discuss a wide variety of topics. We seek to gain a deeper understanding of ourselves, establish new and deeper connections with one another, and find a place for spiritual growth. Recent topics have included “Claiming Happiness” “Be the Change” and “Nature vs. Nurture.” We’d like to expand our group so are seeking new members to deepen our discussions. We meet on the second and fourth **Thursdays** from **7 - 9 P.M.** in the Cottage. Next meetings: **October 9, 23**, and **November 13**. Members share the responsibility of choosing a topic and leading the discussion. We are loosely affiliated with UUI in that we meet at UUI, and several members of the group are members or friends of UUI. However, not all members of the group are members of the church. If you would like to join this group, please contact **Joanne Smiddie-Brush** at jsmiddiebrush@comcast.net, **Eric Hinkle** at cehinkle1961@yahoo.com or **Paul Baker** at pdbnurse@comcast.net.

Interfaith Peace Gathering

An interfaith peace gathering is being planned for the afternoon of **Sunday, October 19**, at UUI. There will be music, and people can either sing along or stand in silence. The start time has not yet been determined as we try to coordinate this event with several other activities taking place that afternoon. More information will be made available as plans are finalized. Contact **Rita Horn** or **Susanne Hinson-Rieger** for more details.



UII Recycling Plan Coming

The Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC), successor to the UII Green Sanctuary Task Force, is developing a comprehensive recycling plan for UII. Meanwhile, please remember that you can recycle much of your environmentally friendly waste items right here at UII. Specifically: paper in the Abitibi container near the parking lot entrance, plus the containers in the south entryway to the Social Hall for cell phones, batteries, used computer ink cartridges, compact fluorescent light bulbs and a big one for computers.

Hackberry Tree Is Gone

The large hackberry tree next to the Cottage had to be taken down. The leaves and fine twigs have been removed. The medium and smaller branches have all been sawed into firewood-size lengths and are in the parking lot. Everyone is invited to help themselves to this firewood.

Some of the very large trunks have been used to create seating and placed in a circle between the labyrinth and the fence. Please use this area for outdoor meetings, when the weather is appropriate. Other large trunk pieces are in the back of the property as wildlife habitats. (Mervyn Cohen)

Imagine This

The UII Photography Club meets the second **Monday** of each month at **7 P.M.** in the Cottage Library. Next meeting: **Monday, October 13**. October theme: *Imagination*. There is another assignment: redo a photo sent by another member. To receive this part of the assignment, e-mail **Wendy Dougherty** (Wdougherty@indy.rr.com).

Safe Hazardous Waste Disposal

Now you can also safely dispose of all those hazardous waste items and electronics in your home during the 38th Street Corridor ToxAway Day. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 18, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.** at North United Methodist Church, 3808 North Meridian Street, in the northwest corner of their parking lot.

Accepted items include: chemicals, gasoline and gas cans, household cleaners, paint and stain products, lawn care products, TVs, DVD and VCR players and much more. For complete details and a list of all hazardous materials accepted call the Office of Environmental Services, **327-2234**, or go to their web site at <http://www.indy.gov/ToxDrop> For an e-mailed copy of the event's flyer contact UII Environmental Sustainability Committee member **Don Somers** at donbanjo@sbcglobal.net.

Dinner Discussion Will Thrive

Dinner Discussion round one was a great success. All who have signed up will be receiving information next weekend. Since there are so many UII events this month, one dinner discussion in late October or early November is the current goal. The first Dinner For 10-12 will take place in November. Throughout the year there will be a sign-up on the **First Sunday of the Month** for a dinner(s) for 10 - 12 that will take place the following month. There will be a sign-up on December 7 for a Dinner in January, on January 4, 2009, for February, etc. If you wish to host a dinner for 10-12 please contact **Heliene Houdek**. Watch the *Eye* and the *Sunday Times* for reminders. I wish you all a year of great food and wonderful fellowship.

Heliene Houdek

UII Women's Dinner

The women of UII are invited to meet for dinner on **Wednesday, November 5**, at **6 P.M.**, at Salvatore's Restaurant at 1268 W. 86th St. We can talk about the election results or not!



Social Justice

Thanks to **Diana Asberry-Ferber**, **Anita Saunders** and **Holly Hendrickson** for leading a workshop on October 4 at the district-wide youth conference hosted by UUI. In keeping with our focus for this quarter (Poverty), a segment of the **Morgan Spurlock** film about living on minimum wage (30 Days) was shown, followed by a discussion and letter-writing activity. The youth also participated in an exercise designed to illustrate the role of privilege in our society.

Many thanks to **Kathryn Hessler** for all her work as the administrator of the UUI Community Garden this past year. Kathryn is stepping down from this role and we are very fortunate that **Susan Pratt** and **Susan Porter** have volunteered to take on the administration of the garden.

Coming Up:

- UUI will be participating in the CROP Walk <http://home.earthlink.net/~jdunson/> again this year on **Sunday, October 19**. The Social Justice Committee and the 5th-8th grade RE students are sponsoring the **October 12** coffee hour after church. There will be a bake sale with proceeds to be donated to the CROP Walk.
- The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a letter-writing activity at the RE Halloween Party at noon on **Sunday, October 26**. Stop by and pick a topic. (What Scares You the Most?)
- And speaking of Halloween, is your chocolate fair-trade? You can read more about the importance of purchasing fair-trade chocolate at <http://www.coopamerica.org/programs/fairtrade/trickortreat.cfm>

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, October 14**, at **7 P.M.** in the Cottage. Families are welcome. If you're unable to attend our meetings, but would like to be involved in our efforts, please contact me at **418-1679**. Also, if you're not sure you want to join the committee, but would like to attend a meeting to see what we're about, we would love to have you visit.

Peace and Love—**Susanne Hinson-Rieger**

Building Your Own Theology

Come to explore the rainbow of world theologies from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. Our small but curious group will meet in the Cottage library on **Thursday evening, October 16**, at **7 P.M.**

The discussion is far-ranging and diverse. Our starting point originates in short but dense readings from *The Treasury of Modern Religious Thought* edited by **Jaroslav Pelikan** which is available for \$1 (and up) plus shipping costs from Amazon.com. Our readings for October 16 are *I and Thou* by **Martin Buber** and *Modern Man in Search of a Soul*.

Larry Miller

Thank you

On Sunday, September 28, **Greg Hatcher** single-handedly spent many hours replacing 22 overhead light bulbs in the Sanctuary, necessitating his moving the enormous ladder from location to location, moving chairs out of the way as he worked, and then putting them back. The new light bulbs do make a very noticeable difference in the amount of light when they are all on. Greg, the new chair of Buildings, has other plans to improve the Buildings. If he asks for help, say **yes**. Thank you, Greg, and we appreciate your enthusiastic embrace of this important job.

A huge thank-you to **Nancy Fuller** and **Bob Hopp** who assisted Fine Arts Committee members in putting up the new *Animals* show.

If we say it a thousand times, that still isn't enough to let our folders know how much we appreciate them. The September 24 *Eye* went out without incident thanks to **Gary Houdek**, **Wendy Dougherty**, **Susan Ham**, **Sharon Lipford**, **Bob Lipford**, **Judy Archer**, and **Sophia Lipford** (3 ½ months). Gary did labels, Bob helped pack up and count, and **Larry Miller** did the post office trip. Thank you also to **Vanessa Fry** who is always helpful.



Children's Choir

The Children's Choir will perform for the service on **Sunday, October 26**. Rehearsals will be on **Sunday, Oct. 19**, in the Music Room in the Cottage and on that **Sunday, Oct. 26**, in the Sanctuary. Both rehearsals begin at **9:30 A.M.**

The Children's Choir is open to singers in grades 1 through 6. New voices are welcome, especially the new first-grade singers this time.

If you have questions, call me at **255-3244** or e-mail RKirk1937@aol.com.

Carol Kirk

Animals on the Walls

The new exhibit in the UUI Sanctuary is an all-church exhibit entitled *Animals*. Participating in this exhibit are **Janet Brown, Janet and Mervyn Cohen, Wendy Dougherty, Charlene and Steve Dunlop, Dave Ellis, Sandra Gruber, Susan Ham, Swari Hhan, Gail Henrie, Carlyn Johnson, Colleen Kelly, Bette Maybury, Lowell McCoskey, Pamala Mueller, Joe Nesbit, Susan Porter, Charlotte Schrock, Ellie Siskind, and Caroline and Karl Zemlin**. Animals represented are many cats and dogs, emus, lions, tigers, butterflies, a frog, dragonflies, horses, seals, a cow, spiny lizard, parrots, a kangaroo, a turkey, ducks, deer, a grasshopper, a wasp, praying mantises, chickens, dolphins, squirrels, crabs, and a blue-footed booby. There are many photographs, one etching, one piece of calligraphy, several fabric pieces, paintings, and sculptures. This exhibit will be up through October 26, when it comes down (after church), and the next all-church exhibit (*Imagination*) goes up.

If you are interested in participating in the *Imagination* exhibit, please contact **Wendy Dougherty** (WDougherty@indy.rr.com or **255-7039**) with the label information ahead of time (your name, title, medium, and any explanation [if any] you want to have on a label). Send label information by October 24. The artwork needs to be at the church following the service on Sunday, October 26. Photographs,

paintings, prints, fabric work, sculpture, or any other medium or technique qualifies.

Please write your name and phone number on the **back** of your artwork. Also, write your name and title on a Post-it and put it on the **front** of your artwork to help us match the label to the artwork.

Spirit & Place

Create an Ethical Will

A standard will bequeaths possessions. An ethical will offers a narrative for your family and friends that recounts your beliefs, blessings, and life lessons as well as your hopes and dreams. With roots in the Jewish tradition, people of all faiths are discovering the value of ethical wills in providing enduring communication between generations. Learn how to develop this legacy of love on **Saturday, Nov. 8**, from **1 to 3 P.M.** at UUI as part of this year's Spirit & Place Festival. Participants will create a personal outline during the workshop led by **Susanne Gaudin**, trained board member of Compassion and Choices of Indiana. The program is free; preregistration is requested so that each participant will have a packet of information. For questions and registration contact **Susan Pratt** at **253-7061** or pratt8460@gmail.com.

But Is It Art?

Please join us for the all-day Spirit & Place Festival event *But Is It Art? Exploring Boundaries and Transforming Communities* at UUI on **Saturday November 1**, from **10 A.M. to 6 P.M.** UUI is a partner, along with Susurrus Artists Inc. and Stutz Artists. See the September 24 *Eye* for more information. Facilitators and panelists include UUI members **Sally Childs-Helton, Stephanie Robertson, and Amy Kindred**. For more information, see the Spirit & Place booklet, website www.spiritandplace.org or call Sally at **251-8099** for information or to register for a workshop.

Welcome, Gabriel

Gabriel Callaghan Cook was born October 1 at 9:03 A.M. and weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measured 20 inches long. He has dark brown hair and is absolutely adorable, according to his objective mother, **Susan Burns**. His big brothers—**Samuel**, 8, **Nathaniel**, 7, **Nicholas**, 4—and the dog are totally fascinated with him. Susan and Gabriel are doing fine.

Susan is home with the children and Gabriel's father, **Ed Cook**, is a software-testing consultant.

BULBs Luncheon

The next BULBs meeting is **Nov. 3, 2008**, at **12:30 P.M.**, at Just Judy's, 2210 East 54th Street.

Fifteen gathered on October 6 to help **Raiford Scott** turn 97 on Oct. 14 (not that she needs any help) and to enjoy the monthly fellowship. Mrs. Halloween (**Pat Lawler**) distributed festive pumpkin goodies and brought pumpkin and cherry pie. Eventually she removed her scary mask so folks could relax.

The BULBs know how to have fun, but they also keep busy. **Jane Bonwell** is tutoring first grade at Nora School one day a week. **Jan Murphy** helped register voters with the Social Justice committee at 37th and Illinois, and she plans to attend the **Obama** rally on Wednesday. **Ethel Blust** will vote absentee ballot and she is not confused about the candidates. Her son **Steve Blust** won't tell us how he'll vote. **Susan Porter** is really enjoying doing art: throwing pots, painting, and woodworking at the Art Center. **Joe Nesbit** enjoyed the tryout of the recent choir director candidate. He is happy to have **Matt Maybury** back in choir, and both Susan and Joe agreed that **Marty Miles** is really good. **Terry Knickerbocker** is happy with his new dog. **Alsie Nesbit** is knitting squares for the knitting group. **Raiford Scott** enjoyed the opera *Il Trovatore* Oct. 5, but we agreed that the story was very bleak.

Also attending the Oct. 6 BULBs were **Carolyn Godfrey**, **Charles Yeager**, **Judith Ann Roland**, and **Regina Perkins**.

The BULBs—Birthday Unitarian Lunch Bunch—meet the first Monday of every month. You don't need an invitation, so come join the group if you can. You will enjoy the fellowship. Future BULBs luncheons: **December 1, 2008**, and **Jan. 5, 2009**.

UU Buddhist Fellowship

The UU Buddhist Fellowship meets at **6:30 P.M.** in the Sanctuary on the first **Monday** and third **Tuesday** of each month. We will meet **Tuesday, Oct. 21** and **Monday, Nov. 3**. Our typical schedule is sitting meditation for 20 minutes, walking meditation for 10 minutes, and sitting meditation for 20 minutes. We finish with 30 minutes of discussion. We will be discussing **Plato's Republic**. Anyone interested in meditation, mindfulness or Buddhism is welcome. For more information, contact **Vince Mathews** at **317-873-4422** or vmathews@iupui.edu.

UII Downtown Lunch

UII members who work downtown gather for lunch at the Indiana History Center, Stardust Terrace Café, located at 450 W. Ohio Street, every second **Wednesday** of the month at **11:30 A.M.** Next gathering, **Nov. 12, 2008**.

Men's Breakfast

UII men are invited to meet for breakfast the third **Wednesday** of the month at **7:30 A.M. (October 15)** at Keystone Deli, 2344 E. 53rd Street. The Deli is on the west side of Keystone Avenue and on the north side of a shopping center. The large parking lot can be entered from either Keystone or 52nd St.

Welcome To Our Visitors

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Ginger Sykes

Mary Wryth

Beth Berts

Sunday, October 5, 2008

Lori and Charles Thomas

John Cornell

Chuck Blackwelder

From the Editor—*Susan Raccoli*

Merry Christmas! I just sent our annual Christmas 2007 letter on September 4, which seemed to be an appropriate day because it was the one-year anniversary of our third (and final) burglary.

We church musicians never send out Christmas cards in December, because that is our busiest month. Then Easter crept up on me, spring events, summer activities, and all of a sudden I realized that 2009 is almost here so I got busy. The advantage of sending a Christmas letter so late is that I received many, many personal responses. In December no one really has time for anything, but in September, the busy season had not yet commenced, and I was thrilled to hear from faraway friends.

My mother's friend **Ethel** never sent Christmas cards. Instead, she wrote a long letter to each of her friends on their birthday, thus spreading the task out throughout the year. But that would not work for me—I know too many people with December birthdays. Another musician friend sends Valentines instead, but again, for me Lent has started by then and I still don't have time. Not everyone participates in the card ritual anymore. My cousin **Kathy** in Georgia told me that she recently gave herself a Christmas present: permission to stop sending Christmas cards. That made her life a lot less tense around the holidays. I can certainly understand her feelings, but in all honesty, I miss hearing from her.

Christmas cards have changed over the years. I go back far enough that I remember when they included a hand-written message along with the festive greeting card. Soon we received the Christmas photo card instead, with a preprinted signature. Eventually came the Xeroxed Christmas letter, detailing the accomplishments and travels of everyone in the family. Nowadays the whole thing is apt to arrive e-mail, and we have become yet one more recipient of another newsletter. **Jay** and I chuckled at the close of one such family newsletter: "We hope you have enjoyed reading about our travels as much as we enjoyed doing them." Alas, Jay and I were forced to admit that reading about them really wasn't that much fun.

My personal focus, in recent years, has been our burglaries, but now that we have a security system, I'll have nothing to write about next September. True, we just had two false alarms, but false alarms are not as interesting as real burglaries. However, let me state unequivocally that burglaries may be interesting to write about, but they are **no fun** to experience! Jay is still missing his nice windbreaker, which we are sure the burglars took. Does anyone know of a *Burglars' Gazette* where we could perhaps find an ad for this stolen jacket, in case it didn't fit the burglars and they want to get rid of it?

Or maybe someone will donate a windbreaker to the UUI auction. The possibilities for donations are endless, and the only limit is your imagination.

We have so many artistically talented people at UUI that buying ahead for Christmas 2009 at the auction is an attractive option. Maybe someone could donate an offer to send Christmas cards. Wouldn't that be a relief for many of us? (I'll tell my cousin Kathy if this happens.)

Meanwhile, enjoy our fall weather, donate something special for the auction, buy your \$5 ticket, and I'll see you there on **Saturday, October 18**.

Susan

The UU Eye Newsletter

A biweekly publication (monthly during the summer) of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis (UUI), 615 West 43rd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208

Website: <http://www.uui.org>

Editor: Susan Raccoli 251-9160

E-mail: SRaccoli@sbcglobal.net

RE Administrator: Matthew Brooks

E-mail: matthew@brookspublications.com

The next three deadlines for the UU *Eye* are **Sunday, October 19, Sunday, November 2, 2008,** and **Sunday, November 16, 2008,** at 3 P.M.

Subscription price: \$30 per year

Interim Minister: **Rev. Barbara Child**

E-mail: minister@uui.org

Office Administrator: **Vanessa Fry**

E-mail: office@uui.org • Phone: **283-4760**

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri.: 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 9, 12, 19—Get to Know the Interim Minister gatherings.

Oct. 9, 23, Nov. 13 (Thursday) at 7 P.M.—UUI Wisdom Circle, Cottage.

October 11, November 8, December 13 (Saturday) at 10 A.M.—UUI Knitters, Cottage Library.

October 12 and every Sunday—Canned food drive to benefit the Martin Luther King Jr. Multi-Service Center in UUI's neighborhood.

October 12 (Sunday) at 12 noon—Discussions of the Draft Revision of UUA Principles, Cottage Music Room.

October 13 (Monday) at 7 P.M.—Photo Club, Cottage Library. Subject: Imagination.

October 14 (Tuesday) at 7 P.M.—Social Justice Committee, Cottage.

October 15 (Wednesday) at 7:30 A.M.—Men's Breakfast, Keystone Deli.

October 16 (Thursday) at 7 P.M.—Building Your Own Theology, Cottage Library.

October 18 (Saturday) at 6 P.M.—UUI Service Auction.

October 19, 26 (Sunday) at 9:30 A.M.—Children's Choir rehearsals.

October 19, November 16, December 21 (Sunday) at 12:30 P.M.—Drumming Circle, Social Hall.

October 19 (Sunday)—Interfaith Peace Gathering.

October 19 (Sunday) at 1:45 to 2:15 P.M.—CROP Walk.

October 19 (Sunday) at 2:30 P.M.—Introduction to Nonviolent Communication, Sanctuary.

October 21 (Tuesday), Nov. 3 (Monday) at 6:30 P.M.—UU Buddhist Fellowship, Sanctuary.

**Unitarian Universalist Church
Of Indianapolis
615 W. 43rd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208**

Mailed on October 8, 2008
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Indianapolis, IN
Permit #5073