

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

January 2011

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.*

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE



We are very happy to announce that our very own Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt is our choice for senior minister for Birmingham Unitarian Church! We made her the offer, she accepted, the Board has approved our choice and we have a signed Letter of Agreement. The final part of the process is the congregation's.

We are asking all active church members to cast a vote during a special congregational meeting Sunday, January 9, after second

service. If you are unable to attend, you may request an absentee ballot from the church office or pick one up after service Sunday, January. 2.

We urge you to make an effort to attend one of the special events arranged during the week, to talk with members of the committee during coffee hour and to read the packet Kathy submitted as part of the application process (available in the office).

Tuesday, Jan. 4: Open House 5:30-7:30 Social Hall ~ Come chat with Kathy while enjoying light appetizers and a libation!

Wednesday, Jan. 5: Lunch Bunch 12:30-2 ~ Available during the day? Join us for a light lunch in the Commons.

Friday, Jan. 7: Vespers and Vittles 6:00-8:00 Social Hall ~ Come share Vespers and Vittles, spend some time with Kathy, and enjoy Ice Cream Sundaes with all the "fixings"!

*January 2: One Service @ 10:30 "Seasons of the Spirit"

On this first Sunday of the New Year, Kathy and Worship Associate Gregg Bloomfield consider the ways in which our spiritual lives, like the natural world around us, have their own rhythms and variations in meaning. The service includes a reading of names of members who have experienced a major life passage of birth, marriage or partnership, and death. Please join Kathy in the Social Hall following the service The Search Committee has arranged for childcare.

Jan. 9: "Sign Language"

How do we interpret experiences as supporting or blocking the choices we make? Kathy and Worship Associate Judy Amir explore the signs and clues we look for in decision-making. This Sunday the members of BUC will vote whether to call Kathy as our next settled minister.

Jan. 16: Possible Guest Speaker on Immigration Reform TBA

Jan. 23: "Angels Unawares"

The next installment in a year-long survey of major themes in Unitarian Universalism, this service led by Kathy and Worship Associate Dan Kosuth consider our traditional practice of mutuality, how we negotiate the many differences in our church community.

Jan. 30: "Building Diverse Community"

Tom Robbins is credited with the quote "Our similarities bring us together. Our differences make us interesting to one another." Laura Worley Ross, DR E for Youth shares the pulpit with Sylvia Whitmer, R E Council Chair. Both will explore how diversity, change and ritual help shape our community through religious investigation and developing Unitarian Universalist identity.

January 22 MAMA's @ BUC

Floyd King and the Bushwackers

Floyd King & the Bushwackers is made from the talent and good looks of Maggie Ferguson, Jim Bizer and Dennis Kingsbury.

With songs about a deal-gone-bad with the Devil, climbing to the top of the mountain in glory, Heaven and Hell, life and death, love and war, Floyd King & the Bushwackers are the toughest band south of the picket wire!



JB Davies will open.

Check out upcoming MAMA's shows at mammascoffehouse.org. Shows begin at 8:00pm unless otherwise specified. Doors open at 7:00pm with open mic beginning 15 minutes later.

What Lies Beyond Religion?

This discussion group, which meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the Large Conference room will resume meetings on January 9th.

For at least two weeks in January, they will explore the book, *My Stroke of Insight* by Jill B Taylor, brain scientist. Other subsequent books may include, *Why God Won't Go Away*, *How to be Good*, *Nothing to be Frightened Of*, and *The Science of Good and Evil*.

All are welcome to join the discussion or just observe the lively meetings. For further information please contact Diane Lake at diane.lake@comcast.net or 248-626-0222.

Adult Education "Is Money Moral?"

On four Saturday mornings in January from 9-11AM, with coffee and doughnuts to be had, Annis Pratt will lead a discussion on the origins of money, what values each of us attach to it, and how people arrive at different economic theories. If you are interested please contact her at avpratt@aol.com. the dates: Saturday Jan 8,15,22,and 29. Good background

reading is, *Justice: What is the Right Thing to Do?* By author Michael J. Sandel.

The Sacred and Profane Discussions

The group met on Dec. 15 with the topic of "Christmas". Roger Marshall facilitated a focus group type of session on our hopes for Christmas 2020. We dealt with 3 subtopics: our hopes for the World, the UUA, and BUC. This was one of the liveliest meetings of the year with everyone actively participating. The group will next meet on Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 10:30 AM when we will discuss "The Epiphany: From Darkness into Light", with Rev. Dick Nelson as facilitator.

BUC Film Buffs ~Friday, Jan. 21

Mid-August Lunch (Italy, 2009, NR, 75 minutes)

"Gianni Di Gregorio stars in his directorial debut—an utterly charming tale of good food, strong women and unlikely friendships during a very Roman holiday. Nearly broke, and armed with only a sense of humor, middle-aged Gianni resides with his 93-year-old mother in their ancient apartment. Their housing debts are mounting, but if Gianni agrees to look after the building manager's mother during the *Pranzo di Ferragosto* (Italy's biggest summer holiday), all will be forgiven. But when the manager's aunt also shows up, followed by a friend who appears with *his* mother in tow, we have to wonder – can our hero keep four lively mamas well fed and happy in his already-too-small apartment?"

Winner of the coveted Best First Film Award at the Venice Film Festival, *Mid-August Lunch (Pranzo di Ferragosto)* is both a warm family portrait and an exquisitely balanced comedy of manners. In Italian with English subtitles." -*Detroit Film Theatre Winter/Spring 2010 Film Guide*

This is a wonderful opportunity to forget winter for an evening. Snacks provided. You may contact Larry at 248-569-0965, or LarryWisniew@att.net. If accessing the newsletter online, click on the movie poster to view the trailer.



Connections - Joys & Sorrows

Lisa Bower gave birth to Lily and Noah on November 18. Everyone is adjusting to life with *two* newborns. Congratulations Lisa, Matt, and big brothers Benjamin and Owen! Blessings (and sleep) heaped upon you all.



Barb and Brian Schandavel welcomed grandson, Devin Charles Meissner into the family on November 28. Congratulations!

Pat and Dick Schwing's daughter-in-law, Elizabeth was in a freak accident Thanksgiving morning. She was seriously injured by a falling tree which has left her paralyzed from the waist down. Please send thoughts of healing and support to her in Texas, and thoughts of encouragement and strength to Pat and Dick's son, Mike Daane and grandsons, Aaron and Evan as they cope with this devastating challenge.

Jorah Huntington was selected for Michigan's All State Band. This honor signifies that she is one of the top five trumpet players in the State.

Susie Safford has returned to the States for good after her two and a half year Peace Corps stint in Romania. She has expressed joy in returning "home" to BUC. It's great to have you back, Susie.

Getting to Know UU - Talent and Services Auction

Save the Date...The talent and service auction is back....with a twist! This year, come not just to share your talent, but share a little bit about who "U" are. Coming in February, look for a very special display in the Gallery of members and our special BUC groups and committees along with lots of wonderful auction items. There will be biographies and photos of members/committees along with the auction items.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 12 for the big event. Stay tuned for more details to follow....

The Group is Gathering...

Come join the fun as the "Getting to Know UU" Service and Talent Auction group starts revving its engine. First organizing meeting is set for 10:15 on Sunday, January 16 between services in the small conference room. This year's theme is "Getting to Know UU." As we welcome a new settled minister and begin the discovery process, it's a wonderful chance to uncover not just our own talents, but our passions. Deepen your connections at BUC, roll up your sleeves and come help support our church with this important fundraiser. You'll share in more than a few laughs along the way. Join us on the 16th - make this the opportunity to get involved @ BUC. Questions may be directed to Marcia Mahood marciamahood@gmail.com.

Starry Starry Night

An invitation to all BUC women for an Evening of Celebration Connection Mystery
Sunday, January 30, 5:00 - 7:30 pm
nourishment of a catered supper followed by a celebration and illumination of feminine wisdom

Reservations required, \$15.00 to:
Marilyn Mast [mmast2@comcast.net] by January 16.
Sign up in the Social Hall Sunday 1/9 and 1/16.

BUC on the Internet

If you haven't stopped by our website lately, click on www.bucmi.org and see a few changes that have been made while we wait for our new website to be built. In the "Directory" portion of the Welcome Page, located on the left hand side of the screen, you will notice there is a Sermon and Newsletter Archive Section. All of Rev. Kathy's sermons are there, as are all of 2010's Newsletters. They'll be something fresh every month.

If you haven't checked us out on facebook, type in Birmingham Unitarian Church and "like" our page or click on the logo below. This is a more informal site where family and friends of BUC can see pictures and videos of BUC and read Kathy's sermons stored in the "Notes" tab section of our page. Check us out!

Reflections

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt



As I write this column, images from the past few days dance through my head, images of your responses to learning that the Senior Minister Search Committee had invited me to be the candidate for BUC's next settled minister. A standing ovation in the Sunday services, big smiles all around, more than a few tears, excitement at the possibilities of our future ministry together: I am moved by the gladness with which you are embracing our potential new relationship.

Yet I also heard, in the midst of the rejoicing, puzzlement on the part of some that I (or anyone worth his/her ministerial salt) would want to take on a ministry at BUC. So it seems appropriate that I address that puzzlement right away, for you need to know that I am walking into our future with eyes wide open.

Why would I want to be the next settled minister at BUC? For starters, there are the usual reasons anyone accepts a new job, reasons that include a good opportunity for growth, an inviting place to live, decent compensation, engaging colleagues to work with. I see in BUC multiple ways we can challenge and encourage one another to grow, both institutionally and spiritually. You will test my leadership and decision-making abilities; I will urge you to experiment with other ways of functioning as an organization; you hope that I can provide healing around old wounds, especially in the area of personnel matters; I hope that you can support my creativity and a greater willingness to take risks. The sorts of issues BUC faces are the sorts of issues I enjoy wrestling with, issues for which I have a good skill set. In a variety of ways, you and I are what is termed in ministerial parlance a "good match."

And while these are excellent reasons for us to undertake a ministry partnership, the fundamental reason for me, the core reason I said "yes" to the search committee's invitation to be the candidate for settled minister, is a heart reason. From the first days I began living and working among you, I felt myself connecting with you on a deeply personal level. Some of you expressed a sense of familiarity with me from the outset, and I also felt as though I had known you for a long time. A line from an old hymn speaks of having "planted your song in the depths of my heart"—and you, the members and friends of BUC, are already singing within me.

I look forward to the congregational vote on January 9, when you will decide whether to call me as your next settled minister. May the song we begin to create be one of rich harmonies and surprising improvisations, a mighty fortissimo of joy.

In faith, hope, and love,

Kathy

The Lighthouse in Pontiac

Thank you for the holiday gift donations for the Lighthouse. The donations were exceptionally nice this year. Your generosity helped make the Christmas season brighter for families in the Pontiac area. Thank you, Denise Newman for delivering our gifts!

Special Need: Volunteer to deliver contents of the Lighthouse donation trunk located in the foyer – food and toiletries – to the Lighthouse on an "as needed" basis. They are open to receive the donations weekdays.

Please email Margaret Marsh mmarsh96@yahoo.com or call 248-288-3411 if you might be interested. The Lighthouse is near WHRC and could fit with a tutoring schedule. Many thanks to David Boddy for doing the deliveries this past year!

Children's Religious Education

Eleanor McGuire, Director of Religious Education for Children

Children's Rotation Curriculum



January's *Coming to Agreement* rotation stems from a larger objective of teaching our children how to find a balance between diverse individual opinions and community needs. To address this conflict, our UU Fifth Principle encourages "the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." In an effort to explore and reinforce the Fifth Principle, this rotation addresses two main questions: "What are the skills and steps needed to carry out the democratic process?" and "What are some benefits of coming to agreement?" This rotation allows the kids to practice, both within groups and as individuals, the skills necessary to move through conflict toward consensus and then action.

Each workshop within this rotation focuses on one of these four steps for resolving conflict within groups of any size:

- 1) Identify the problem (Listening)
- 2) Brainstorm options (Deliberation)
- 3) Choose a solution (Compromise)
- 4) Try it out! (Commitment)

The Games workshop calls for "good listening", which is a skill that requires practice. This class focuses on two fundamental parts of good listening: "replaying" what was said and making "I" statements in order to avoid accusations.

The Storytelling workshop illustrates that discussion of possible options is essential to the process of coming to agreement. The children will discuss the pros and cons of each different animal that they could donate through Heifer International, using the Children's Worship offertory.

The Video workshop demonstrates how compromise often requires the skills as well as the willingness to reach agreement. The children will learn some methods of how to, as well as the benefits of compromising.

The Cooking workshop: The final stage in coming to agreement within a group is the act of commitment. The children will learn that "commitment" is action taken to support your decision – it is not just an idea you think *might* be good to try.

Please contact Eleanor McGuire, Children's DRE, with questions at: eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org

Mid-Winter RE Volunteer Renewal Days

Taking place on either Sunday, January 23, 12:30 – 3:30pm or again on Tuesday, January 25, 6:30 – 9:30pm will be a gathering for ANYONE interested in teaching, people already teaching, advisors, guides, RE Council members, parents, past teachers...

COME TO OUR CELEBRATION of your gifts and talents!

We'll spend our hours with food and wine! This time is about camaraderie, connecting and finding renewal for your interests in religious education at Birmingham Unitarian Church.

The agenda includes opportunity to discover more about your leadership styles and how to use these to your advantage both in the classrooms and in relating to the children and youth of BUC. How does your style influence what you would like to get out of participating with children and youth? How will others'

styles influence your vision? Your Mission? We'll go over a few "nuts and bolts" but we will not spend much time on that, at all! There will be opportunity to "practice" situations with those who have had a lot of experience or an entirely fresh approach. We'll give you opportunity for spiritual renewal as well.

We hope to see as many folks as possible at either of these events. Pick a day! Join us! Gather with your fellow UUs who also enjoy working with the newer UU generation. We're looking forward to spending this rewarding time with you!

Eleanor McGuire, Director of Children's RE and Laura Worley Ross, Director of RE for Youth

Youth Religious Education

Laura Ross, Director of Religious Education for Youth,
laura.ross@bucmi.org



Youth Groups:

Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High (GUUSH) for all 9th – 12th graders

Meetings Jan 2

Jan 16 6p-8p

GUUSH –HS Mystic Lake Retreat FIRM Jan 14-16, 2011

ROPE Boston Trip April 28 – May 1, 2011

Heartland District Youth Conferences:

- Jr. High 1 Day (North)- Location: Lansing or Midland- Date: January 8-9
- Spirituality Development Con- Location: Gross Point UU- Date: February 11 – 13
- Social Justice Con- Location: First in KY or TJUC- Date: March 11-13
- Bridging- Location: Ann Arbor or UUI - Date: April 29 - June 1
- Jr. High Election - Location: St. Johns Cincinnati- Date: May 13-15

Special Town Hall Congregational Music Discussion

December 12, 2010

Submitted by Pauline Mengebier, Treasurer

Mary Jo Ebert facilitated the meeting of 118 congregants. The discussion of the Music Department's restructuring began with attendees setting a covenant for the meeting. Statements included listening and speaking with respect; fixing the problem, not the blame; speaking one at a time and for oneself; avoiding making assumptions; assuming best intentions; accepting the facts; being accepting of other's opinions and using UU principles as our guide.

The discussion was in three parts:

1. Clarifying the Basis of the Decision. This included the history of the Music Department after the retirement of longtime Music Director and pianist, Barbara Woolf.
 - The structure in place for the last year did not work for the Music Department staff. There was a need for speed in decision making as all four music staff described an intolerable situation.
 - A consulting minister is expected to move quickly to solve organizational problems during their one year tour. The new structure may be altered if it is not working.

- Of all possible options the one chosen by the Board and the Minister is the favored arrangement in many churches.
 - Whether the directorship can be dual will be decided by the Search Committee
 - Concern about the youth program and choir was countered by the advantage of youth advancing from youth into adult choir in a choir system. There is potential for expanded opportunities for youth.
 - Religious education has some funds available for the Sunday morning music program
2. Clarifying the Search Process. Mark Auchter-Bruening, Chair of the Search Committee
- Listed the members of the Search Committee: Jim Bizer, Carol Forrester, Mae Rooney, Louise Angermeier and himself
 - Read the four page job description, prepared by BUC's Personnel Committee (which is preparing job descriptions for all staff) at the request of the Board and the minister
 - Applications are currently being received toward a cutoff date of December 20, 2010
 - Applicants who have suitable background and experience will be interviewed and observed in auditions with the adult choir and youth.
 - The salary is \$33,000 - \$39,000 plus a professional development fund. After one year the Director will be eligible for a 10% pension.
 - The search process was announced in September 2010 with calls for nominations or self nomination for the search committee candidates. Announcements were made in letters, notices and Town Hall meetings.
 - It is expected that many volunteers will assist the Director and the music program.
 - The Music Director will report to the minister.
3. Open Discussion.

The meeting adjourned after 1 hour with thanks from the facilitator for the participation of the congregants.

Kudos!

Pam McAlpin, Youth Chorus Director

Thanksgiving Multigenerational Service

Thank you to the following players for stepping up and making *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* come alive. Mathew Baker-Grunza and his moms Lisa Baker and Lynn Grunza, Kathy DuHame, Mike Kendra, Rev. Kathy Hurt, Laura Ross, and Worship Associate Kristy Fielder -- very convincing bunch. Many thanks to Eleanor McGuire for finding such a wonderful story.

One Hour Choir

Thanks to the Youth Chorus, Adult Choir, and all the brave folks who signed up to sing with the One Hour Choir. It's always a pleasure to see new (and old) faces and hear the energy you help create for our church service.

No Fault Orchestra

You never fail to amaze me. It's so much fun to work with such a diverse group of individuals who know how to have a good time and still get the work done. I'll keep my eyes out for a trombone extravaganza for next season. Special thanks go to our kitchen workers: Mike and Mark Auchter-Bruening, Eric Pierce, and the very talented Brian Schandavel. Barbara Woolf on piano and the other instrumentalists who helped make the Grinch come alive made this a very special event.

Youth Chorus

With the Christmas Eve confusion (I too had a 6:00 dinner I was late for) I thank those who were still able to rearrange your schedules to sing for the 5:00/5:30 service. I know those of you who couldn't make the change were happily being with friends and family. We will take a few weeks off from chorus and will begin again in mid-January. Happy New Year!

Leadership Development Update - Election Results

As we approach the end of another busy year, the LDC team wants to thank and acknowledge all BUC'ers who are continuing or joining the volunteer leadership ranks as well as all members who have supported and participated in our democratic election process. At the December 5th Annual Meeting, 171 members voted out of 460 eligible and over 100 members attended the annual meeting.

Board officers, program council and LDC members who completed their terms, were acknowledged at the meeting, and during both worship services for their commitment of time, energy and love invested in making BUC a welcoming and warm spiritual community. We offer congratulations and thanks to:

Board of Trustees

President: Tom Cranston
Vice President: Pauline Mengebier
Secretary: Claudia Kocher
Treasurer: Priscilla Hildum
Trustee: Mary Cay Dietz

The following Trustees are continuing their terms in 2011: Walter Dean, Julia Gragg, Boris Silberberg, and Peggy Woehrlen.

Program Council

Congregational Development: Lisa Demian
Fellowship: Margot LeRoy
Worship: Kristi Fielder

These elected leaders are joining Lucille McNaughton (Service & Social Justice), Sylvia Whitmer (Learning), and David Graham (Program Council Secretary) on the Program Council.

Leadership Development Committee

Scott Farrar
Debbie Fordree
Ron Fredrick
Grace Rising
Barbara Woolf

These new LDC members will join Diane Lake, Carol Lee, Bill Pratt, Brian Schandavel, and Susie Sherman Hall who will serve the second year of their terms in 2011.

We also wish to thank and acknowledge Louise Angermeier, Larry Freedman, Sylvia Sesostris and Carole Wiseman, for agreeing to serve and have their names on the ballot this year. In accordance with our Constitution, should anyone on the LDC be unable to fulfill their role during the next year, we will call on Louise, Larry, Sylvia or Carole to step in.

Leadership Development Process Re- Defined /Educating Our Volunteers

After feedback and inquiry from the many members who had asked questions and charged us with doing more for the congregational development of our elected and appointed leaders than has been in place for

many years, the Leadership Development Committee decided early in 2010 to expand our role beyond that of our nominating committee responsibilities, as was the intent of the name change a few years ago of “Nominating Committee” to “Leadership Development Committee.”

We defined the scope of this additional responsibility to include initiatives identifying, developing, and supporting volunteer leaders in our congregation. There is a wide range of ways that we could approach this. We interviewed current leaders and performed an informal assessment of needs for development and support.

From that feedback we identified a few starting points:

- The Development of an interactive two-part leadership seminar to be held on January 8 and 22, covering foundational leadership topics beneficial for people already in leadership roles and others who may be interested in a lead role. Invitations to approx. 80 current leaders and acting leaders have been sent. Details are in the order of service over the next few weeks and in the January newsletter. The seminar will cover several topics including governance, organization, communication, and decision-making processes.
- More formalized recognition of the contributions of our volunteer leaders, such as you saw in the services and election on December 5th.
- Expanded efforts to identify congregants who have the ability to serve in leadership roles. We don't always know the background and capability of our congregants, and we're working on means to identify such talent earlier. With training and support available from the LDC, they may be more likely to self-identify and/or to say "yes" to a request to serve in a leadership capacity.

This is a preview of things to come. We will do an assessment after the January seminars to learn from and plan continuing efforts moving forward.

We wish to thank and gratefully acknowledge the work of 2010 LDC members, Ed Sharples, Jennifer Yess, Marcia Mahood and co-chairs Mary Jo Ebert and Bill Fox for their hard work in this very busy LDC year.

Yours in Service,

2010 Leadership Development Committee:

Bill Fox, Mary Jo Ebert, Carol Lee, Diane Lake, Marcia Mahood, Bill Pratt, Brian Schandavel, Ed Sharples, Susie Sherman-Hall and Jennifer Yess.

BUC's Leadership Development Seminar

When: Saturday, January 8 and/or Saturday, January 22

Time: 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. “Meet, Greet, & Eat”
9:00 a.m. seminar begins ~ 1:00 p.m. seminar ends

Where: Social Hall @ BUC

What: This two-part seminar will cover the following topics:

Communication	Decision-Making Processes	Governance	Membership
BUC Organization	Covenants	Charters	Change and Resistance

Light brunch will be served.

Presented by: BUC Leadership Development Committee for 2010

Mary Jo Ebert, Bill Fox, Diane Lake, Carol Lee, Marcia Mahood, Bill Pratt, Brian Schandavel, Ed Sharples, Susie Sherman Hall, Jennifer Yess

RSVP to marciamahood@gmail.com by **JANUARY 5, 2010** or contact the church office.

Alliance

Alliance is proud to present a wonderful series of programs continuing our 2010-2011 year. On Wednesday, January 19 we're going to Iceland with photographer extraordinaire, Gloria Boddy: Capturing Iceland: Digital Photography Under the Midsummer Sun. She writes: "On June 30, 2009, with a local photographer as our guide, sixteen of us squeezed into a van and set out to photograph Iceland. What we found was a country forged by fire, honed by ice and shaped by an independent people – who manage to live intimately with these forces on a day to day basis. Join David and me for a photo essay describing our visit to this extraordinary island."

This will be the first of four monthly Brown Bag lunches. It will be in the Pavilion at Noon; Alliance will provide beverages and our faithful, generous cookie-backers will add dessert. The program will begin at about 1:00 in the Commons. Everyone is invited to join us for lunch and the program – or to come to the program only.

On Wednesday, February 16, we will get an inside look at changes in Detroit. Professor John Mogk of WSU School of Law entitles his presentation Detroit: The Road Traveled and the Road Ahead – Re-urbanization and Downsizing of Detroit. On March 16 a docent from the current exhibition, Faces, Forgeries and Mysteries, which offers insights into how experts answer questions about art in the DIA collection.

The last program of the Brown Bag lunches for this year will address the recurrent topic of the seating of judges of the Michigan Supreme Court. The Honorable Marilyn Kelly, Chief Justice of the Court, will present this program to us. We welcome her as one of "our own" – a long-time BUC member! We do not have a meeting in May – because it's Rummage, May 1-7. Hope you now have these events on your new 2011 calendar and that you plan to join us for the joy of being together and experiencing a great program!

Facilities Update

Inta Davis, Chair of Facilities

Hard to believe that 2010 is at an end. With the New Year about to begin, the Facilities Committee is looking forward to completing planned projects and beginning new projects.

The Facilities budget for 2011 has been approved and as noted in the November newsletter, includes funds to retrofit many of the lights inside the church with more energy efficient lighting that includes compact fluorescent and LED lighting. It also includes funds to install automatic door openers from outdoors into the sanctuary and new carpeting. A project started in 2010 but not completed is replacement of the concrete and hand rail in the Marshall Courtyard. The Facilities Committee is in the process of revising the specifications to lower the cost of this project so it can be completed Spring 2011.

We are thrilled to report that Jim Dean has joined the staff at BUC as Maintenance Tech on a part time / temporary basis. Jim's first job will be installing the new LED lights and ballasts throughout the buildings. These lights are part of the energy retrofit that will save considerable money in electric costs and take a significant step towards making BUC green. Jim works full time as a Service Technician for a local property management company. He brings 25 years of maintenance experience to BUC. Because Jim works full time at another company, he will complete maintenance tasks evenings and weekends. Report any maintenance related items at BUC to Lisa either by leaving her a note or via e-mail. She will be working closely with Jim and will coordinate all repair work with him.

Jim and Jason have already changed the lights in the Pavilion and Sanctuary. The carpeting was cleaned on Thursday, December 23. We hope you notice a difference in these areas. The new lights will brighten the rooms, last significantly longer (no more burned out spot lights) and save significantly on energy costs. A professional cleaning company cleaned the tile floor inside the restroom outside the BUC offices. While the tile came clean, the grout did not. The cleaning company recommends the floor be replaced as the use of stronger chemicals will cause the grout to pop out. We are investigating the cost of new flooring for this restroom. The same company will stripped and waxed the vinyl floor in the Social Hall on December 23. Eventually in 2011, we intend to have the tile floors in the other restrooms throughout BUC professionally cleaned.



In late November, two of the large sycamore trees along Woodward Ave were removed by M-DOT. The trees had rotted inside the trunks and were in danger of falling into Woodward Ave or towards the church. In addition, BUC had thirteen other large dead trees along Woodward Ave and into the Capek Woods area removed. Next spring we will take inventory of the remaining trees and remove any other dead trees that pose a danger of falling.

With your help, the Facilities Committee is dedicated to continuing its work to maintain BUC not only for today, but for future years.

Together with you in service for BUC.

The Facilities Committee

In August of 2010, the Board voted on a Proposal recommended by a special board committee and our then Interim Minister, Rev. Marcel Duhamel. The committee had been tasked with defining a process of evaluating outside events held at BUC. The following process was approved and is now the criteria for outside speakers and events:

EVENT SCREENING PROCESS GUIDELINE FOR BUC-SPONSORED OUTSIDE SPEAKERS

Topics, speakers, program content and materials will be forwarded by the BUC sponsor to the President of the Board of Trustees and to the Minister

Subjects of a partisan political nature are discouraged (UUA directive).

Topics of strongly divisive and adversarial nature are to be balanced in presentation and respectful of BUC and UUA values as defined by our Declaration of Principles and Purposes, our BUC Charter Statements, and our BUC Constitution Statements – truth, fairness, UU democratic tradition and balanced information that support the Mission of our church shall be observed.

Events taking place at BUC that are not sponsored by the church will give public notice by separate administrative processes and clear statements of that fact.

Pursuit of complicated topics is strongly encouraged to be held within the format of the BUC Adult Education program.

Return Address Correction Requested

First Class Postage

Email: buc@bucmi.org
Web: www.bucmi.org
Ph: 248.647.2380
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
38651 Woodward Avenue

Birmingham Unitarian Church

The Bible on Broadway: A Musical Review

Supported by BUC and other area churches

Sunday, January 30 ~ 4:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, Royal Oak

Tickets will be available in the Social Hall after
services or contact Larry Freedman 248-370-8227

Professional Home Health Aide

15 years' experience ~ References
available. Full-time, part-time, or
single visit service.

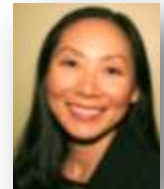
Ken Kauffman at 1-248-914-1122



I have recently become a member of BUC, a church I can finally call my spiritual home! I have been a chiropractor for over 15 years in Michigan, specializing in giving individualized, loving, specific, gentle care to all ages, pregnant moms to newborns, the elderly, and all levels of athletes. I work Tuesday & Thursday 9-1, 3-6:30 pm and Saturday 10-12 pm.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday by appointment only. If you have any questions about your particular case, please feel free to email me drejkim@gmail.com or leave your number at the office.

Thank you, Dr. Eun Joo Kim.



O'Dell Family Chiropractic

28245 Southfield Road
Lathrup Village, Michigan 48076
Phone: 248-552-1110.

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All Submissions for the Newsletter must be received by midnight on the 20th of each month for the following months newsletter to the editor lisa.crawford@bucmi.org