

SERMON
TOPICS:

- February 3—
Stepping Up
to the Plate
- February 10—
Science &
Religion
- February 17—
Acedia in our
Lives
- February 24—
Let Jake Sleep
on the Roof

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The Compass

FEBRUARY 2013

Kudos to Those Working at Food Pantry

Over two years ago we were approached by Patchwork Central and asked to staff and operate their Food Pantry. With a gentle nudge from our Minister, Claudine Oliva, we responded to the challenge. Now, five members & friends of UUCE volunteer their time & energy during the four days each week the Pantry is open to clients. They are Ed Howard, Hardin Rathgeber, Geneice Snow, Bill Tonso, and John Schaeffer who orders the food and schedules the volunteers.

Recently, Amy Rich, Co-executive Director of Patchwork Central and Editor of "Stitches", their quarterly house organ, entered the Food Pantry at PC, camera in hand. She took pictures of volunteers unloading deliveries from the Tri-State Food Bank, stocking the shelves, and filling orders for clients. She then approached each volunteer with a request: "Please write one or two sentences telling me why you choose to volunteer your time at the Food Pantry".

Following are answers to Amy's question, which, along with her account of this activity were published in the Winter 2013 edition of "Stitches" (q.v.)



First, John. "I dislike wasting food in a famished world. Volunteering at Patchwork's Food Pantry affords me the opportunity to help redistribute food, collected and donated by individuals, churches, service organizations, postal employees and apartment complex groups, and purchased from the Tri-State Food Bank, to the hungry!"

From Ed Howard. "I am retired & have the time. And I feel service to others is the rent I pay for the space I occupy. Helping those who are less fortunate than me lends purpose to my life"

From Hardin. "I enjoy providing service to our clients. Mostly they are very appre-

ciative. Some are not; they are even downright picky, but I just assume that this is one place where they can be treated as people and they are given choices"

From Bill. "It's something to do. It gets me out of the house"

From Geneice. "After I lost my right arm in February 2009, there were a lot of things I couldn't do anymore. I got bored with housework...and started trying to figure out what else I could do. The first time I visited the UU Church, I ran into an old high school classmate who ... signed me up to help at the Patchwork Food Pantry. That was two years ago and I have found it to be very rewarding.

I like feeling that I have, in a small way, helped people who are struggling to make ends meet. I look forward to Thursday mornings and plan to continue my Volunteer work here for as long as possible"

The good work goes on.



Sermon Topics

February 3— **Stepping Up to the Plate**, Ed Howard will speak, Linda Sue Cates worship associate

February 10— **Science & Religion**, Hardin Rathgeber and David Fentress, Tom Moor worship associate

February 17— **Acedia in our Lives**, Rev. Doddie Stone will draw thoughts from *Acedia and Me*, a book by Kathleen Norris, Tom Moor worship associate

February 24— **Let Jake Sleep on the Roof**, scripted dramatization with actors, Ed Howard worship associate

A Courageous Politician*

“When shortcomings in our laws bring about a result that is unjust, I have a public obligation to try to change that injustice.”
 —Gov. Martin O’Malley

(The following is an edited version of a longer article which appeared in a recent edition of the Courier & Press and authored by Brian Witte.

Because courage seems to be in short supply, we felt every member and friend of UUCE should read it.)

On January first, same-sex marriages became legal in Maryland, the first state south of the Mason-Dixon Line to do so. Same sex couples in Maryland were able to get marriage licenses starting December 6th, but the new law did not become effective until 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2013.

This is ironic, because the first Catholic parish in America was founded in Maryland

in the 17th century and the power of the Church in that state since has been strong. In spite of that, voters (not the courts) approved the November ballot question.

The new law followed a legislative fight that pitted Governor Martin O’Malley against powerful leaders in his Catholic faith.

In 2011, same-sex marriage legislation passed the state Senate but stalled in the House of Delegates. O’Malley did not make the issue a part of his agenda, but indicated he would back a measure similar to a New York law which exempted religious organizations.

Shortly after, Archbishop Edwin O’Brien of Baltimore wrote to O’Malley: “As advo-

cates for the truths we are compelled to uphold, we speak with equal intensity and urgency in opposition to your promoting a goal that so deeply conflicts with your faith, not to mention The best interests of our society.”

The Governor was not persuaded. He held a news conference in July 2011 to announce he would make same-sex marriage a priority in the next legislative session. And he wrote to the Archbishop: “When shortcomings in our laws bring about a result that is unjust, I have a public obligation to try to change that injustice”. The measure passed in February 2012.

* Ordinarily, this is an oxymoron.

Kid's Night Out

Friday, February 15
6:00 to 10:00pm

Parents—drop off the kids at the Chalice House for a night of games, activities, and dinner! They'll have fun while you have a chance to check out a new restaurant, catch a movie, spend time with friends or just enjoy a quiet night in. The RE council will provide a safe, fun night for both UUCE children ages 6 months to 12 years along with their friends. To register, contact Ashley Perkins at aoa@uuevansville.org or 812-474-1704. Sign-up sheet and registration forms are in the church foyer.

Highlights of January Board Meeting

Coffee

Place your order for chocolate, cocoa and coffee by the 25th of the month. Contact Chris Norrington for details 471-9867.



United Caring Shelter

UUCE prepares a meal at the United Caring Shelter on the 3rd Friday of the month. We work from 3:00–5:00. Helpers are needed!

Donations of spaghetti noodles and sauce are always needed too!

After the lighting of the Chalice and a reading by the President, Joan DeVillez brought a request from the RE Committee proposing a “Date Night” for parents of children in our Religious Exploration classes.

The Committee suggested the church family provide free child care in the Chalice House on the night of February 15th. The Board approved the idea in general but made some suggested changes. Watch for more information about this event.

Another matter concerning our children came to the fore as a complaint from a young mother. She had sat with her young child during a recent church service while a member expressed concern about the abuse of women in India. The parent felt her child should not be exposed to such adult concerns. The Board agreed,

and instructed members of the Worship Committee to schedule “Joys and Sorrows” after the Story For All Ages and the children have been excused.

In his Treasurer’s report, Chris Norrington, noted that donations, i.e., pledges, are running well ahead of expectations. Instead of 56%, we have realized 70% to date. And we have been generous as well in contributions to “plate share” distributions. We donated \$248 to the United Caring shelter and \$279 to Crop Walk, UUSC, and the Aids Resource Group. Chris reported expenditures of \$6,455 in December leaving a balance of \$1,089 in the checking account.

Attendance during December: Dec 2nd, 42; Dec 9, 51; Dec 16, 50; Dec 23, 40; and Dec 30, 34, for an average of 43 - the same as November.

Marla Minton, represent-

ing the Worship Committee, gave details of sermon topics and what guest ministers to expect during February.

(These will appear in the weekly newsletter and Order of Service.)

Bev Tonso, Chair of the Congregational Life Committee, announced the orientation of prospective new members will begin February 3rd.

In Old Business, Ed Howard presented a report from H.A. Lewis, HVAC, regarding improper ventilation of the Chalice House attic.

The House & Grounds Committee had hired Lewis to examine the situation and submit this report. Members expressed a need for action based on the report. The matter was referred back to Hardin Rathgeber, Chair of House and Grounds.



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Evansville**

2910 East Morgan Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711
812-474-1704

Service on Sundays at 10:00 AM
Youth RE on Sundays at 10:30 AM



Board of Directors:

President	Ed Howard
President Elect	
Secretary	Marla Minton
Secretary Elect	
Treasurer	Chris Norrington
Treasurer Elect	
Director	Linda Sue Cates
Director	Bev Tonso

Other Volunteers:

Religious Exploration	Joan DeVillez
Youth Leader	Mary Helen Weldy
Building and Grounds	Hardin Rathgeber
Stewardship	David Fentress
Communications	Chris Norrington
Social Justice	Chris Norrington
Congregational Life	Bev Tonso
Worship Associates	Marla Minton
Newsletter Editor	Ed Howard
	uceeditor@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Jack Carden
Website	www.uuevansville.org

Joke of the month:

The following explanation was forwarded to the Editor by Alan Marty for our edification.

It all makes sense now—gay marriage and marijuana being legalized on the same day. Leviticus 20:13: “If a man lays with another man he should be stoned”

Most of us just interpreted it the wrong way.

Upcoming Events & Activities

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| Fri, Feb 1: 7-9pm Drum Circle | Thur, Feb 7: 7pm Worship Committee Meeting | Wed, Feb 20: Compass Submissions due |
| Sun, Feb 3 & 17: 9am Adult Discussion Group | Sun, Feb 10: 10am Science & Religion | Sun, Feb 24: 10am Let Jake Sleep on the Roof |
| 10am Stepping Up to the Plate | Fri, Feb 15: 3pm UCS Dinner | 3-5pm Dances of Universal Peace |
| Mon, Feb 4: 7pm Board Meeting | 6-10pm Kid’s Night Out | Thur, Feb 28: 11:30am-1pm Brown Bag Book Club |
| Tue, Feb 5, 12, 19, & 26: 7pm Historical Jesus | 7-9pm Drum Circle | 6:30pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting |
| Wed, Feb 6: 7pm RE Committee meeting | Sun, Feb 17: 10am Acedia in our Lives | |
| | Pot luck following service | |