

SERMON  
TOPICS:

- Nov 4– Rev  
Phil Hoy
- Nov 11– Vet-  
eran's Voices
- Nov 18–  
Thanksgiving
- Nov 25– Rev  
Doddie Stone

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# The Compass

NOVEMBER 2012

## DO THE LATEST POLLS BODE WELL FOR US?

Recent polls find religious affiliation in the United States is changing, and perhaps for the better for those of us who espouse liberal religious values.

Since anyone has been keeping count, the US has been predominantly a nation of Protestants, with Roman Catholics in second place. But now the number of persons claiming affiliation with a protestant denomination has fallen for the first time to 48%. Roman Catholics claim 23% - and here's the interesting news, some 20%, or one fifth of our population list "none" as their religious choice. Six percent of those marked "atheist" when asked.

The story was written by Bob Smietana and first published in USA TODAY on October 5th. It was picked up by The Huffington Post with the headline: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS SEE CHANCE FOR GROWTH IN GROWTH OF SECULARISM. Alice Carden called it to our attention.

According to this article, many now belong to a group of people who believe in organized religion, but are skeptical about doctrine. And they have found a home in our church. We grew by almost sixteen percent from 2000 to 2010.

"Although they remain small in total numbers with about 211,000 adherents nationwide, Unitarian Universalists believe their open-minded faith has a bright future as an alternative to more exclusive brands of religion."

They might be right, said Diana Butler Bass, author of "Christianity After Religion:

The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening" Bass, who has studied thriving progressive churches, said UU can fill a niche in conservative religious cultures such as the Bible Belt. "I think there is a role for these kinds of more open and liberal spiritual groups" Bass said. "They provide a nice counterculture community".

The denomination, which started in New Eng-

land, has been growing more in the South than in other parts of the country, said Rachel Walden, a public witness specialist from the Boston-based UUA. In Tennessee, Unitarians grew by 21% from 2000 to 2010. During the same time frame, they grew by 22% in Georgia and by 43% in Colorado. The church hopes to appeal to the rising number of "nones" - those with no specific religious identity. A recent poll from the Pew Research Center show that about one in five Americans fall into that category.

Lee Barker, President of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, said UUs are in the right place at the right time. "We are at a time when the values of our church and the values of our culture are intersecting", said Barker, who is a UU minister. "I don't see that going away any time soon." Let us hope he is right in that regard.

-Ed Howard



## Sermon Topics

**Nov. 4** Rev. Phil Hoy will preach . Tom Moor Worship leader

**Nov. 11** Veteran's Voices A reflection on Veterans Day. Tom Moor Worship Leader and Speaker

**Nov 18** Thanksgiving. Karim Shelton will lead the service

**Nov 25** Rev. Doddie Stone will return to preach. Ed Howard will be Worship Leader

## Thanksgiving Dinner

All members, friends, and visitors and their families are invited to attend the second annual UUCE Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, at 2:00 PM at the church. The turkey is provided, but all who are attending are asked to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. The sign-up sheet is in the church foyer, and you are requested to sign up for whatever type of food you are bringing, and how many are in your party.

We had a great turnout last year, with wonderful food, and we hope this year will be another enjoyable time for all!

## Reconsidering CAJE

Is it just me (and I will grant you that this is often the case), or do we, as a congregation, need to take another look at our participation in Congregations acting for Justice and Empowerment? At the recent CAJE meeting held in October, I was greeted by an extended selection of Christian-oriented music so extremely loud, it felt like a physical assault. Had I been a Muslim, a Jew, or a Hindu, I would have gotten the message loud and clear – you do not belong here. As a Unitarian Universalist, I felt very estranged as the meeting proceeded with exclusively Christian references and readings.

I believe that CAJE is now positioning itself as Christians Advocating for Justice and Empowerment. The Jewish Synagogue, the Hindu Temple, and the Muslim Mosque in our

community do not belong to CAJE, and I can understand why. CAJE does wonderful work, but I am wondering whether Unitarians Universalists, who so strongly advocate diversity, are allowing the ends to justify the means. I have attended almost every action ever undertaken by CAJE, and am overjoyed to see it making a difference in Evansville. I am so proud of the individual members of UUCE who have devoted extensive amounts of their time and energy to help make these changes. But I worry about what message we send by our presence to those excluded by a group that now feels like a “Christians only” entity.

If CAJE wishes to position itself as a group specifically for Christian congregations, that is fine - it should just make that clear.

I do not believe that it should proclaim itself an organization that is looking for the momentum and energy that diversity brings when its actions at its meetings show otherwise. I don't know if CAJE is amenable internally to make the changes necessary to include non-Christian congregations – it certainly did not appear so at the last meeting – but I would be very willing to give it a try if others at UUCE feel the same.

What do you think? I know that CAJE is composed of extraordinary people who have done great things, so it really saddens me to ask if this is the still right vehicle for a Unitarian Universalist congregation desiring to be an agent of change in Evansville.

-Mary Helen Weldy

“I believe that CAJE is now positioning itself as Christians Advocating for Justice and Empowerment.”

## Changing Of The Guard

In late September, shortly before the thirteenth anniversary of our food booth at the West Side Nut Club Festival, Teri Rawlings announced this would be her last year to Chair this important UUCE committee. Funds raised by this means have increased each year so that this year we elected to budget \$5,000 income from this source.

Given the amount of effort she has put into this fund-raiser year after year, we can appreciate her desire to rest and turn the reins over to someone else. It is a demanding job which involves a lot of planning, preparation,

logistics, staffing, and long hours spent cooking the food amassed for the masses. Members stepped up to help, but a number of the volunteers who assisted Teri in the booth were family and personal friends who are not members of UUCE. Even with a full complement of helpers, Teri carried most of the load. And for that, we are indeed grateful.

This year, she took on the additional job of finding a friend-with-a-truck to help move the booth from its resting spot behind the Church, where it sits for fifty-plus weeks of the year, to the number 13 spot on West Franklin

Street, and back again.

On Friday of the week of the Food Festival, we were required by the WSNC to ante-up \$688 rent for space number thirteen next year. At a meeting of the Board on October first, members unanimously agreed we should continue this fund-raising effort at which Teri and her committee have been so successful. In doing so, the Board is "stepping out on plank of faith", that is, we are counting on securing for next year another food booth chair as dedicated and hard-working as Teri. Any volunteers?

**Thanks again, Teri.**

## After The Dust Settled

The difference between "gross" income and "net" income, as any schoolchild will tell you, can be sizeable. And such was the case in the amount grossed from food sales at Booth #13 at the West Side Nut Club Festival, October 1-6, and the profit we realized from this annual fund raiser.

Thanks to the diligence and

hard work for many members and friends who manned the UUCE booth, we grossed \$5,630. But after expenses, that is, rental, food, ice, etc., we netted \$2,867, or less than \$500 in profit each day. One reason, one worker opined for the modest profit, was the substantial increase in food prices over

the past few months.

As they say in baseball parlance, wait'll next year. With a new menu we can strive to shrink the distance between gross and net.

## Compass Editor Needed

After nearly 10 years of producing the Compass each month I have decided it is time to hang up my editorial duties and take a well deserved break. So, I am looking for someone to take over starting with the January 2013 edition.

It only takes 1-2 hours a month to pull it together. Basic knowledge of Publisher is help-

ful, but it's an easy program and I'll be glad to help someone learn it.

This is a great opportunity to provide a service to the church (you can even do it from home in your pajamas in the middle of the night!) So, step right up and be the first in line for this great opportunity!!

Call Beth at 477-9813 to

volunteer!!



## 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!

## Coffee

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

## Monthly Potluck

Join your fellow UU's after church the fourth Sunday of each month for potluck.

## Crop Walk

The CROP Walk is a local sponsored walk to raise funds for world hunger relief. This is an interfaith community event, with walkers from many different churches in the area participating. We'd love to see participation from UUCE. The walk takes place beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday Nov.3rd. It begins at St. John United Methodist Church (1900 N. Fulton Ave.) and lasts about 2.5 miles. If you are interested in walking or sponsoring, please see David Fentress 473-0314, [df27@evansville.edu](mailto:df27@evansville.edu)

## Patchwork Central Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, November 10 9-3pm

Unique handmade gifts by local artists including jewelry, paintings, greeting cards, ceramics, fiber art, and wood.

Free admission

101 Washington Ave, Evansville

424-2735

\*30% of all sales will be given to support Patchwork Central's programming

## Saving Energy: A Win-Win Effort



On Sunday, October 21, those present during the morning service heard Lisl Disch, Coordinator for Energizing Indiana, explain how we can each conserve energy in our homes while earning money for the Church. And no, we're not talking about becoming better couch potatoes.

By signing up and completing a home energy assessment, UUCE will receive \$25.00 for each participant. The homeowner receives an energy savings kit consisting of nine CFL light bulbs, two low-flow shower heads, two bathroom sink aerators, and one kitchen sink aerator. If

there is an electric hot water heater, the inspector will wrap it in an insulating blanket.

After Lisl receives the name from UUCE of an eligible person, she forwards that info to an inspector who visits the house and examines it for air-leaks, inefficient appliances, low-level insulation, and other examples of wasted energy.

Eligible homes must meet three requirements: 1) a single family detached home, duplex, triplex, quad, or mobile home (owner occupied or rented), 2) the home must be ten years or older, 3) the home must

not have had a utility-sponsored assessment in the last three years. There is no cost to the owner, and the results of the assessment are not shared with salesmen who might want to follow up on needed improvements to the home.

After Lisl Disch made her pitch and left, seven people signed up for an energy assessment. These names were promptly mailed to her office. Others will be approached by President Ed or his designate, with clip-board in hand, after the next several Sunday services.



**Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville**

2910 East Morgan Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47711  
812-474-1704  
Services Sunday at 10:00 AM

**Youth RE at 10:30 Sundays**



Board of Directors:

President	Ed Howard
President Elect	
Secretary	Marla Minton
Secretary Elect	
Treasurer	Chris Norrington
Treasurer Elect	
Director	Linda Sue Cates
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Other Volunteers:

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

# Upcoming Events & Activities

Fri. Nov. 2 7-9pm Drum Circle

Sat. Nov. 3 10am CROP Walk

Sun. Nov. 4 9am Adult Discussion Group

Mon. Nov. 5 7pm Board Meeting

Tues. Nov. 6 7pm Historical Jesus

Wed. Nov. 7 7pm RE Committee Meeting

Sat. Nov. 10 9am-3pm Patchwork Central's Holiday Art Sale

Tues. Nov. 13 7pm Historical Jesus

Fri. Nov. 16 3pm United Caring Shelter Spaghetti Dinner

Fri. Nov. 16 7-9pm Drum Circle

Sun. Nov. 18 9am Adult Discussion Group

Tues. Nov. 20 Compass Submissions due

Tues. Nov. 20 7pm Historical Jesus

Sun. Nov. 25 Pot luck immediately following service

Sun. Nov. 25 3-5pm Dances of Universal Peace

Tues. Nov. 27 7pm Historical Jesus

Thurs. Nov. 29 11:30am-1pm Brown Bag Book Club

Thurs. Nov. 29 6:30 pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting

