

## SERMON TOPICS:

- July 6—The Clearwater
- July 13—Human Trafficking
- July 20—Challenges of Humanism
- July 27—Chris Rothbauer

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## The Army Surrenders by Simon Brown

(The following article appeared in the May 2014 issue of *Church & State*)

Mention the Salvation Army and most people think of bell ringers who seek contributions outside of stores at Christmas or of trucks that collect donations of used clothing and furniture for resale at thrift stores. But the Salvation Army isn't merely a collection of charitable workers looking to help the poor. It is an evangelical Christian religious denomination above all else.

And though it is not usually thought of as being political, the SA has in the past employed Religious Right-style assaults on the constitutional principle of church-state separation. Despite its sectarian cast, the SA receives millions in federal funding annually, around \$188 million in New York alone, to run its homeless shelters, soup kitchens and after-school programs. Around 300 New York employees are paid with federal funds, according to the New York Civil Liberties Union, which filed suit on behalf of Anne Lown, who had 24 years of service at SA in New York City, and who objected to a questionnaire asking about religious beliefs of its staff members.

“I thought it was illegal,” Lown, former assistant executive director of the Army's social services for children, told the editors of *Church & State*. “What right do they have to know about my religion?” Lown, and her department, which had hundreds of employees responsible for overseeing foster care and other pro-

grams for children, was 98-99 percent funded by government contracts.

But higher ups in the Army were unhappy that her department “was not more Christian and did not reflect [the Army's] mission,” Lown said, so they started demanding to know about employees' beliefs—and firing some staffers who didn't give the right answers.

Now it seems the SA will have a harder time imposing a religious test on its staff thanks to a settlement in a decade-old case. Following a March 18 agreement, in *Lown v The Salvation Army*, the Army will be barred from engaging in discriminatory hiring practices for employees paid with money from government contracts. This is thanks to Lown and other employees who fought back when the group's division fired or threatened to fire those who did not adhere to the Army's religious dogma.

For Lown, the fight began when she replaced her boss, who was fired after 27 years because he had refused to distribute a questionnaire asking about the religious beliefs of his subordinates. When Lown replaced him, she was also asked to provide her employees with the offending form, asking about their church attendance and names of their ministers. Lown, who is Jewish, was not comfortable with that request and said so. “I would not distribute it, and I would not fill out the form. I was just really clear that this should not be happening.” She filed a complaint with the U.S.



—Anne Lown, plaintiff in “faith-based” discrimination lawsuit

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission at the advice of the NYCLU, which eventually led to her forced resignation from the Army. The NYCLU filed suit on behalf of Lown and 18 others. This led to a settlement in 2010 that required every government agency listed in the lawsuit to ensure that the federal money provided to the Army did not subsidize religious activities.

Critics have argued that this lengthy lawsuit resulted from bad presidential policies. During the term of George W. Bush, the White House made it easier for groups like Salvation Army to secure federal funding through the “faith-based” initiative, which allows religious organizations to secure government contracts for various services. In 2001, the SA resisted hiring gays while retaining government funds. Discriminating while using private funds is one thing, but federal money changes the equation.

## Sermon Topics

July 6—**The Clearwater** is a multi-generational service about Pete Seeger. Sermon written by Janeen K. Grohsmeyer. No Children's RE this Sunday.

July 13—A local High School group will present on **Human Trafficking**.

July 20—Ed Howard will read the sermon **Challenges of Humanism** by Reverend David Robins.

July 27—Chris Rothbauer returns to preach. *Potluck lunch following service.*

## A New Protocol for Making Announcements

Responding to complaints that some announcements made during Sunday services are often spontaneous, mundane, long-winded, and not Church-related, members of the Board adopted a new protocol for making announcements.

Now, a member wishing to make an announcement must submit it to the Worship Associate in advance of the service, preferably in writing.

Your cooperation in observing this new procedure is greatly appreciated.

-Ed Howard

## Methodist Minister Re-Instated

In the December 2013 issue of THE COMPASS, we reported that the Reverend Frank Schaefer of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, had been "defrocked" by the governing body of the United Methodist Church for performing a wedding of his gay son to his partner. The ceremony took place in Massachusetts which recognizes marriages between people of the same gender. Pennsylvania does not.

After learning of the wedding, approximately half his

congregation left in protest. On November 19, 2013, a jury of clergy suspended him for thirty days, telling him he could embrace Church rules or, if not, leave the Methodist ministry. The Methodist Church has been clear in their opposition to same-gender marriages, though it is well-known that many Methodist ministers have quietly performed union ceremonies between same gender couples.

During the testimony, Schaefer said he would not go back

on being a silent supporter of gay people. Three of his four children are gay. And he refused to promise that he would not commit the same offense again. He appealed the decision of the Church.

Now we have word that he has won his appeal. The Methodist Church has re-instated him and assigned him to a new congregation. We rejoice with him! And we see this as a hopeful sign that the Methodist Church will reverse its stand on same gender marriages.



## Salad Sunday RE Fundraiser

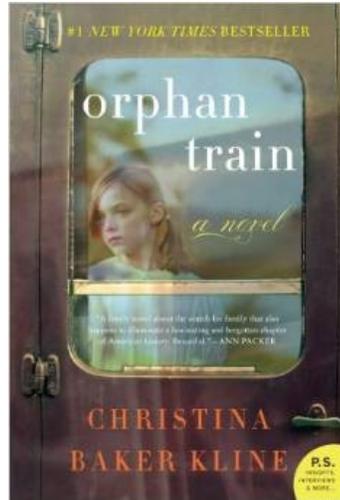
Please join the Religious Exploration Committee for lunch on Sunday, July 13! We'll be serving a variety of delicious salads and bread. A suggested donation of \$3 per person will go towards the activities of the children and youth of the congregation. And just in case you're not able to stay to eat, we will have carry-out containers available. Thank you!

## "As You Wish" Discussion Series

The fifth in the "As You Wish" end-of-life discussion series will be held on Sunday, July 27 at 12:30pm in the sanctuary following the potluck lunch. This session—Putting It All Together: What's Your Preference?—will be an interactive one in which attendees will, through a series of activities, put together a plan for their own end-of-life and funeral preferences. As it is wise to have plans in place before a crisis, this will be a very important session to attend. Hope to see you on the 27th!

## Rummage Sale Success - Thank you!

The UUCE Rummage Sale was held on Saturday, June 14. We would like to thank those who donated, set up, priced, organized, took money, bagged, cleaned up, and purchased items from the sale. With all of your support and hard work, we were able to raise a total of \$1,647.80. A big THANK YOU to Sharon Dennis, Teddye Thompson, and Bev Tonso for their leadership and their committee for putting together a successful fundraiser!



## July Book Club

Join the UUCE Brown Bag Book Club on Thursday, July 31 from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Bring your lunch to eat while we discuss the book of the month, *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. “A compelling story about loss, adaptability, and courage...With compassion and delicacy Kline presents a little-known chapter of American history and draws comparisons with the modern-day foster care system.” (Library Journal)

### Support Teams

UUCE now has support teams in place to assist those members and friends who need assistance with activities of daily living, such as grocery shopping, lawn care, meal preparation, etc., due to illness, death in the family, or other circumstance. If you or someone else needs such help, please notify Bev Tonso at 476-9235 or [btonso44@att.net](mailto:btonso44@att.net), Sharon Dennis at 431-9148 or [sdennis1.sd@gmail.com](mailto:sdennis1.sd@gmail.com), or Teddye Thompson at 402-2744 or [t.thompson@wowway.com](mailto:t.thompson@wowway.com)

### UUCE T-Shirts!

The Congregational Life Committee has ordered t-shirts imprinted with the UU logo on the front and a statement of our First Principle on the back. They will be available—in a variety of sizes—for sale for \$8 each by June 1. They'll be great to wear for church-sponsored activities as well as for a casual fashion statement! See Sharon Dennis or Bev Tonso to purchase one—or more.



### A Trip to the Farm



The RE Committee is planning a trip to Off the Fence Farms on Saturday, July 12 at 10am. This trip to the farm will include seeing horses, cows, chickens, and guineas; doing some hands-on farm activities; and learning about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). This is a trip for all ages (is family-friendly) and does not cost anything to attend. We still ask that you register/sign-up so we know how many to expect. Sign-up sheets are in the church foyer. If you have questions, contact Ashley Perkins at [ashleyperkins612@yahoo.com](mailto:ashleyperkins612@yahoo.com) or call the church office at (812) 474-1704. We hope you can join us!

## Highlights of the June Board Meeting

Following a custom established years ago, the Board meeting in June was a joint meeting of the old and new board members and was held in the home of the outgoing president. It was the last scheduled meeting of the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

A guest of the Board was Allie Burton and her nephew Josh, professional house painters, who made a presentation regarding the painting of the sanctuary. She made an offer to perform the labor at no charge to the Church. The Church would pay for the paint and related materials, which she estimated at three hundred dollars. The Board asked questions and discussed preferred paint colors. After Allie and Josh left the meeting, President Ed appointed Suzanne Perrey to chair an ad hoc painting committee and to recruit other members. Tina Sizemore suggested Suzanne obtain references on Ms. Burton. This was taken by consent.

In his report, Treasurer Chris Norrington noted that our checking account balance

stands at about \$8,400, which he opined is a healthy sum. For the year, we have collected about \$3,900 more in revenue than we have spent, and pledges stand at 87%. Sunday attendance figures for the month of May are as follows: May 4th—50; May 11th—26; May 18th—40; May 25th—25; giving an average of 30 persons.

In her report as Chair of Congregational Life, Bev Tonso announced the Picnic on June 1st to have been a success with 38 people in attendance. Committee member Sharon Dennis announced the receipt of t-shirts bearing an image of the flaming chalice on the front with our first principle on the back. Several were sold at the Picnic. Some will be kept at the Church for members to wear at public functions, such as the upcoming rummage sale on June 14th. The “As You Wish” series was cancelled in May but will be held June 22nd, when three professionals from the funeral industry will discuss funeral choices and green

options.

In her report as RE Director, Ashley Perkins said the children will hear from selected members of the congregation this summer on “What Brings You Joy?” Childcare for the nursery has been arranged throughout the Summer with the exception of some holidays. A field trip is planned for Off the Fence Farms, a business owned by the McTaggart family.

Under new business, President Ed said Tina Sizemore, incoming President, will attend the Midwest Leadership School July 13-19 in Beloit, Wisconsin. Some of the expense will be paid by the Yael Haffner Memorial Fund.

After discussion about complaints from members objecting to some announcements made during service, the Board agreed that from now on a member wishing to make an announcement must submit it to the Worship Associate in advance of the service. He/she will make the announcement on behalf of the requesting member.



### Short Reflection on Childhood

I don't think I am bigoted or prejudiced against anyone. If so, I think it is because I never heard my father or mother say anything negative about someone else because of the artificial distinctions of race, creed, color, religious beliefs, gender, etc.

I think the home environment plays a huge role in what children wind up ultimately believing.

-Hardin Rathgeber



**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Evansville**

2910 East Morgan Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47711  
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**Service on Sundays at 10:00 AM**  
**Youth RE on Sundays at 10:30 AM**



Board of Directors:

President	Tina Sizemore
President Elect	Sharon Dennis
Secretary	Chuck Meny
Secretary Elect	Jasmine Sturgill
Treasurer	Mollie Pharo
Treasurer Elect	David Fentress
Director	Suzanne Perrey
Director	Tom Moor
RE Director	Ashley Perkins

Other Volunteers:

Youth Leader	Mary Helen Weldy
Building and Grounds	John Schaeffer
Stewardship	John Schaeffer
Communications	Chris Norrington
Social Justice	Charles Luker
Congregational Life	Bev Tonso
Worship Associates	Tom Moor
Newsletter Editor	Ed Howard
	uceeditor@hotmail.com
	Ashley Perkins
	www.uuevansville.org
Webmaster	
Website	

## Upcoming Events & Activities

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| Sunday, July 6: 9am Adult Discussion Group                      | RE Fundraiser   | Monday, July 21: 6pm Down to Earth meeting  |
| Sunday, July 6: 10am The Clearwater: Multi-generational service | Monday, July 14: 6pm Down to Earth meeting                              | Sunday, July 27: 10am Chris Rothbauer returns to preach; <i>Potluck following service</i> |
| Monday, July 7: 6pm Down to Earth meeting                       | Friday, July 18: 3:30pm United Caring Shelter Dinner (sign-up in foyer) | Sunday, July 27: 12:30pm "As You Wish" Discussion Series                                  |
| Monday, July 7: 7pm Board meeting                               | Friday, July 18: 7pm Drum Circle  | Sunday, July 27: 3pm Dances of Universal Peace  |
| Saturday, July 12: 10am Off the Fence Farms Trip                | Sunday, July 20: 9am Adult Discussion Group                             | Monday, July 28: 6pm Down to Earth meeting  |
| Sunday, July 13: 10am Human Trafficking                         | Sunday, July 20: 10am Challenges of Humanism                            | Thursday, July 31: 11:30am Brown Bag Book Club  |
| Sunday, July 13: 11:30am Salad Sunday                           | Sunday, July 20: Compass Submissions Due                                |   |