



The BEACON

Sept. 19, 2011

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, New York

Upcoming Sunday Services, 9:30/11:30 a.m.

Minister: Rev. Douglas Taylor

Moderator: Kate Thorpe

Moderator-Elect: Jason Smith

Director of Religious Education:
Lynn Garman

Music Director: Vicky Gordon

Organist: Gail Elyse Schmick

Office Manager/Beacon Editor:
Lee Shepherd

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to
1 p.m. weekdays.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Phone: 607.729.1641

Fax: 607.729.1899

Email:

office@uubinghamton.org

Web: www.uubinghamton.org

TO SUBMIT AN

ARTICLE:

Please e-mail to the above address, or a leave a hard copy on the office desk by the deadline printed below.

NEXT BEACON

DEADLINE:

**Friday,
September 30**

Items received past the deadline will be included in subsequent issues.

Sept. 25 : “Cooperatively”

Capitalism, Democracy, and Congregational Polity. Thomas Jefferson, Michael Moore, and Us. What do all of these things have in common? The world is waiting for the answer, cooperatively. Craig Schwalenberg is minister of the UU church in Oneonta.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Oct. 2 Wineskins and Watersheds”

Unitarian Universalism is about 50 years old. It came into existence when Unitarianism and Universalism, two traditions of a couple of hundred years each, merged in 1961. Ours in an evolving faith, and who we are now has grown and changed over even these past few decades.

Rev. Douglas Taylor

Calendar

Sat., Sept. 24

1 p.m., Tai Chi

Sun., Sept. 25

9:30/11:15 p.m., Worship; 12:45 p.m., EcoForum;

12:45 p.m., Zen of Drawing; 1 p.m. Facilitated

Conversation with Craig Schwalenberg;

1:30 p.m., Wicca 101; 12:15 p.m., Middle School Parent meeting

Mon., Sept. 26

6:15 p.m., Parents’ SGM; 7 p.m., Poetry Group

Tues., Sept. 27

6 p.m., SGM; 7 p.m., New UUs’ SGM

Weds. Sept. 28

10 a.m., SGM; 6 p.m., RE Committee; 6:30 p.m., SGM; Spirit of Life course postponed

Thurs., Sept. 29

6:30 p.m., Choir

Sat. Oct. 1

1 p.m., Tai Chi

Sun., Oct. 2

9:30/11:15 a.m., Worship; 10:30/12:15, UU Basics;

12:45 p.m., Zen of Drawing; 1:30 p.m., Wicca 101

Mon., Oct. 3

10 a.m., UUW; 7 p.m., Library Committee;

7 p.m., Membership Committee

Tues., Oct. 4

7 p.m., Social Justice Committee

Weds., Oct. 5

7 p.m., Program Council; Spirit of Life course postponed

Thurs., Oct. 6

6:30 p.m., Choir; 7 p.m., CUUPS

Fri., Oct. 7

Lee’s birthday (testing to see if anyone really reads this calendar); NYSCU meeting

Sat., Oct. 8

NYSCU meeting; Tai Chi cancelled

Minister's Column

For pastoral issues, please contact Douglas by cell phone at 607-221-4638 or by e-mail at dtaylor@uubinghamton.org. Offices hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; other days by appointment.

This is my 2011 Flood Report for the congregation. Over the course of Wednesday through Friday of September 7, 8, and 9, between five and six feet of water came into our church basement. This is very similar to what we experienced in 2006. One difference is that room 12 is not a storage room anymore; it is our Junior High Sunday school room. A handful of nearby congregants mobilized Wednesday evening to move the sofas and other furniture up to the main level.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, a couple dozen people were at the church cleaning things out of the basement and washing down our parking lot. The teachers of the Riverside Drive Nursery school were with us cleaning out their room 11. In all, we did a pretty good job getting things back in order. The last step will be bringing in a professional clean-up crew to make sure mold does not set in as it had with the flooding five years ago. Soon, we will have all the rooms back to order.

Several members and friends of the congregation were adversely affected by the floods. Many people had a little bit of water in the basement. These eight households had several feet in the basement causing significant damage and grief: Jeff Donahue and Kay Glasgow, Joe Elder, Allen and Marie Lutins, Walt and Heidi Melzer, Stu and Peggy Naismith, Andrea Palmeri and Romney White, Jeff Smith, and Lynne Theophanis. Also, George and Sue McAnanama's house (no one living in it currently) had water up on the first floor. Mostly, these basements are cleared out and cleaned up. The most significant loss was for Andrea Wright and her son Glenn, who lost almost everything. They have found a new apartment to rent and will be able to move in later this week.

All the support and help people have offered has been amazing. The kindness and compassion I have witnessed over the past several days is heartening. Under the layers of our everyday efforts to pay the rent and get the kids to practice, we all really are very amazing and compassionate people.

—douglas

REflections

DRE Lynn Garman will be in the office Sunday, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Call 729-1641 or e-mail dre@binghamton.org.

Sam is the only kid he knows who goes to church – who is made to go to church two or three times a month. He rarely wants to. That is not exactly true: the truth is he never wants to go. What young boy would rather be in church on the weekends than hanging out with a friend? ...You might wonder why I make this strapping, exuberant boy come with me...The main reason is that I want to give him what I found in the world, which is to say a path and a little light to see by. Most of the people I know who have what I want – purpose, heart, balance, gratitude, joy – are people with a deep sense of spirituality. They are people in community, who pray, or practice their faith; they are Buddhists, Jews, Christians – people banding together to work on themselves and for human rights. They follow a brighter light than the glimmer of their own candle; they are part of something beautiful...

— from Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamont

I remember well my own children's pleas to stay home from church, to sleep in, to play with friends, to do nothing, or anything, to stay home on Sunday mornings. That was long before I was a Director of Religious Education, when going to church and gathering with our community was just what we did as a family on Sunday mornings. These past couple Sundays, during our RE Receptions, I have heard from a wide range of parents – those whose children love coming to RE and church, those whose teens get up and walk to church even on those Sundays when parents are opting out for the day, and those parents whose children resist coming and even prefer staying home for chores to coming to church.

In the words of fellow DRE, Rebecca Kelly-Morgan, "Churchgoing is a habit, and it is up to you to decide how important a habit it is to cultivate for yourself and for your family...Religious life is a choice, and our decisions to participate are a reflection of our values and needs. When we consider the commitment to religious engagement, perhaps we should consider what we need instead of what we want. If we need the sustenance of our community, then we go to church. If we need to stretch past the places where we stop, then we go to church. If we need to deepen our relationships with others, if we need to find and create meaning in our lives, if we need to feed our souls, then we go to church."

(continued on next page)

RE Calendar

September 25 – Middle School Parent Meeting

September 28 – Religious Education Committee Meeting

October 9 – Faith in Action

October 21-23 – Youth Con

October 29 – Haunted House and Halloween Party

Be watching this space for updates on our annual October 29 Spook-tacular Family Halloween Party hosted by the Youth of UUCB!

REflections (*continued from previous page*)

I know there are some barriers that challenge a regular churchgoing habit, from activities in the larger community like sports and birthday parties, to a shortage of teachers at UUCB this fall. For my part, I will endeavor to remove those barriers to regular attendance for families within our UUCB walls and create a community of care and meaning. And you? How can you help make churchgoing a regular habit for your family and others?

May our church and RE program offer a path, a brighter light to follow, and even risk being habit-forming. ~in joy, Lynn

Building Use Reminders

Congregants are reminded of the following when using rooms at UUCB:

- *Use only designated rooms and parking areas in back of church (handicapped parking OK in front).
- *Smoking not allowed in the building.
- *Please show respect for the building – leave it clean, wipe up spills on carpet, floor scuffmarks. A broom, mop and vacuum are in the janitor's closet.
- *Put away all chairs and tables, and return furniture to its original configuration.
- *We strongly urge you NOT to use disposable plates and utensils, especially Styrofoam. UUCB is designated a "Green Sanctuary" congregation, which tries to be environmental in all aspects of its operation.
- *Be sure to turn off and unplug coffee pots.
- *Trash is to be taken to dumpster; located in back parking lot; empty compost tub in kitchen into compost bin, also in back parking lot.
- *If your group is the last out, be sure all windows are closed, lights out and doors locked.

Missing RE Materials

Thank you to all who have returned curricula, resources, storybooks, and binders! We still have a number of items missing from our program, including copies of *Chalice Children* and *We Are Many, We Are One*. Missing and misplaced items like this are costly, so please check at home and return any materials you may have.

REGistration REminder

It was wonderful to see many of our religious education families at the Receptions recently! Thank you for your questions, your sharing, and your sign-ups, all of which assist us in maintaining a relevant and vibrant program.

All families are reminded that children and youth, Nursery through Youth Group, must be registered each year. This enables us to maintain up-to-date contact information, as well as be aware of special programs in which your child is interested. At the time of registration, parents are also asked to indicate their commitments and preferences in supporting our cooperative program. If you have not yet registered your child, please see Lynn Garman.

Is This a Conversation For You?

Sunday, Sept. 25 at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Craig Schwalenberg will facilitate a conversation regarding the Board's decision to deny reinstatement of membership to a former member. The relationship was originally severed six years ago and both the original decision and the one recently made were difficult and with mixed feelings. The Board is hosting this conversation to provide an opportunity to process and reflect on the board's decision and the core values that guided them.

The conversation is open to all congregants, but those who feel particularly touched by this situation are especially encouraged to attend.

Do You Have a Talent to Share?

I always welcome the wonderful musical talent in our congregation, and will continue to feature guest musicians during the services when the choir will not be singing. If you have a talent you would like to share, please let me know. I would be happy to provide accompaniment on the piano, if needed.

—Vicky Gordon



GREEN MATTERS

EcoForum:

City of Binghamton Climate Action

This is one of more than 1000 events that are taking place worldwide as part of 350.org's Moving Planet day to focus attention on climate change. At our event, Amelia LoDolce, Director of Sustainable Development for the City of Binghamton, will discuss the recently completed Climate Action Program (CAP) for the City. Two years in preparation, the CAP includes a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory for the City and recommends measures to reduce carbon emissions in transportation, housing and commercial buildings, and daily city operations. Importantly, Amelia will also discuss those changes necessary for the City to successfully adapt to our ever more rapidly changing climate – the big flood we just experienced being an excellent example.

Sunday, Sept. 25th, 12:45 - 1:45 p.m., Fireside Room

Thank You!

Our thanks go to Gay Canough for providing space on www.etmsolar.com for Green Sanctuary web content. We thank Carol Miyake for donating that handy compost aeration tool. Finally, thanks to Beverly and Adam Singer for planting a nice groundcover on the parking lot island.

Green Paper-Saving Tip

Many home computer printers include a scan function. If yours does, look for ways to use it routinely to save paper and printer ink. For example, instead of printing a page and mailing it, perhaps you can scan it into a PDF file and email it as an attachment. That is also faster and saves on postage. Another example: Instead of printing an extra copy of something for your records, make a scanned copy instead and save it in a folder you create for that purpose.

What you can do to help end racism: Think about why people find it so difficult to talk about racism in an ethnically mixed group. Discuss this with others who ethnically similar and different.

— UUCB Task Force on Racism

To all at UU Binghamton:

I'm a traffic control officer at Lourdes Hospital, and I just wanted to take the time to say how much I enjoy reading the various bumper stickers on congregation members' cars as they leave. I'm not religious in any sort (ironic that I'm working at a Catholic hospital, eh?), and I'm sure you understand as well as I know what it's like to be liberal in the era of the "Tea Party," especially in our area.

What I'm getting at is, nothing puts a smile on my face like reading the bumper stickers of church members as they pass. It's really a breath of fresh air, especially after I've been riding around the lots reading so many bumper stickers of the opposite sort.

So thanks for giving me something to smile and chuckle at during those long days!

—Your friend, Tim B

"Spirit of Life" Class Postponed

This adult education class, originally scheduled from 9/28 - 10/26, has been postponed due to a facilitator's flood-related difficulties. The class will be rescheduled, and new dates will be announced in the *Beacon*.

Hymnal Supply Dwindled

Our supply of blue hymnal supplements has dwindled. Please check to see if you've borrowed one and return it.

Focal Point Sign-Up Sheet for Fall 2011

The Sign-Up Sheet for Focal Point Fall 2011 is posted on the hall bulletin board. Awaiting your commitment to share some beauty and creativity with us on Sunday morning. Feel free to bring your own items and/or use those in the closet near the Sanctuary.

Call Renée Taft for more information.



***UUCB Book Sale
Sat., Oct. 15, 9-5
Sun., Oct. 16, 9-2
Books or CDs***

(no magazines or textbooks)

***New location: Center for
Innovations and Technology,
321 Water St., Binghamton
Drop off books Tues. Oct. 11
from 1-4 or Weds., Oct. 12 from
6:30-9 p.m.***

***Or call 723-8600 for pickup.
Volunteers still needed to sort
from 10-5 on Fri., Oct. 14, to
cashier and help out on Satur-
day and Sunday and to deliver
leftover books on Sunday.***

Also need 3 tables.

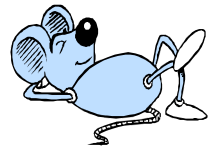
***Call Marilyn Coleman or Barb
Nordstrom or sign up on the
sheet on the bulletin board.***

The Church Mouse

**Your thank-you goes here to
the unsung heroes who make
UUCB a very fine place indeed. Please submit
your items to office@uubinghamton.org.**

**Adrian Jewell thanks all who helped make
his recital here such a success. Hats off to
Adrian for providing superb music.**

**Thanks to everyone who cleaned and disin-
fected the first floor and swept mud from the
parking lot. And ditto for those who went
out to help other congregants in need. Great
teamwork!**



Cranberry Hosts Curt Osgood and Friends

The Cranberry Coffeehouse con-
tinues its 40th year of providing quality traditional and
acoustic music to the Binghamton area with Curt Os-
good and Friends on Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30-10 p.m. in the
Social Hall. \$8 admission. Osgood is joined by guitarist
Jim MacWilliams and banjo player Rob Siegers for a
fine evening of folk tunes. \$8 admission.

And on Sat., Nov. 12: Singer/songwriter Annie Hills
(note that this is a week earlier than usual.) Having per-
formed with Pete Seeger, Tom Paxton, Steve Gillette
and Cindy Mangsen, to name just a few, Anne weaves
musical tapestries of poetry and instrumental beauty.
7:30-10 p.m. \$8 admission.

Sunday, December 4: Special Presentation at 3 p.m.,
Nowell Sing We Clear celebrates Christmas as it was
known for centuries in Britain and North America -- a
joyous celebration of the midwinter and holiday seasons
featuring John Roberts, Tony Barrand, Fred Breunig
and Andy Davis. There's no better way to usher in the
holiday season. Tickets sold in advance.

Call 729-1641 for more information. Note: There will
no regular Saturday Cranberry on Dec. 17 and no mid-
dle set on December 4.

For more information, visit [http://web.mac.com/
cranberrycoffeehouse](http://web.mac.com/cranberrycoffeehouse) or call the office.

Reminder About Childcare

For childcare for committee or other church
meetings, the event coordinator must ar-
range childcare at least one week in ad-
vance. Contact Lynne Theophanis.



The BEACON

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF BINGHAMTON**

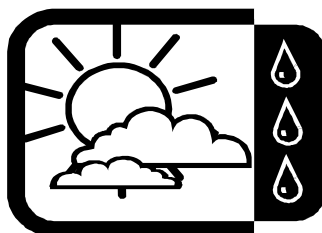
183 Riverside Drive
Binghamton, New York 13905

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Binghamton, NY
Permit No. 62

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit our Website and get
Your newsletter online:
<http://www.uubinghamton.org>

The Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation of
Binghamton is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



**May you be high and dry
and comforted in this
trying post-flood time for
our region and its people.**