

# The Vanguard

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HOBART

### Worship Calendar

*(Services are held on Sunday's at 11 A.M. in the church Sanctuary, unless otherwise noted.)*

#### Sunday March 7

*Rev. Roger Brewin*

#### WHO DAT SAY?

If you don't like sermons based on sports metaphors, don't worry, neither do I. But since I've already worn their hat in the pulpit, I will make passing reference in this service to the Saints improbable march to the Superbowl in February. For me the question is simply - can we do the same? Can we take on all the tasks we see in front of us? Can we perform at a higher level *This will be a short service (11:00 to 11:45) followed by an abbreviated coffee hour (11:45 to 12:15) and a congregational meeting (12:15 to approximately 1:15) concerning upcoming challenges.*

#### Sunday March 14

*Patti Shaffner*

#### The Nurturing and Healing Force of Music

Music is a powerful spiritual and healing practice. Patti will talk about her experience with music, as something that is created out of her connection with that which is larger than each of us, as well as an expression of that connection. And she'll lead us in our own experience of that connection.

#### Sunday March 21

*Joe Cherry*

#### The Divine Chocolate Chip Cookie

Cookies are an excellent metaphor for our connections with each other! For Joe, they bring to mind family and tradition, and we'll explore these ideas in our Uni-

tarian Universalist context. Come join us for a delicious treat!

#### Sunday March 28

*Rev. Dr. Brent Smith*

#### The Parson and the Person

This morning we will look at the nature of the ministry as it has developed in Unitarian Universalism over the past few centuries. This is part of the Transition Committee's work on looking at issues which will be part of First Hobart's future.

*"A Liberal Religious Presence in Northwest Indiana Since 1874"*

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HOBART  
497 MAIN STREET, HOBART, INDIANA

#### Names & Numbers

Roger Brewin, Minister (church) 219-942-1611  
(office) 773-881-4028  
Jan Zorn, Office Manager.....219-942-1611

#### Board of Trustees/Officers:

Don Parker, President / Brian Barnes, Vice President / Diane Moryl, Secretary / Kelly Mahler, Treasurer

#### Board Members:

Tim Cook, Karen Quinlan / Glenn Keldsen / Judy McCauley

[www.FirstUnitarian-Hobart.org](http://www.FirstUnitarian-Hobart.org)

**NURTURE Your Spirit.**  
**Help Heal Our World.**



## What's Brewin

It was a great party - 40+ people, music, good food, speakers, our social hall delightfully decorated for Valentine's Day. The second annual Freedom to Marry reception brought in folks from beyond the church membership, built relationships with friendly local merchants, and as one of more than 100 such events at UU churches around the country, helped advance a worthy cause - the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry.

I was reminded, doing the words of welcome for that joyous and hopeful occasion, of other great parties - like the Religious Education workshop on "Inclusion" a few Saturday mornings ago. No music or decorations, but a lot of good upbeat interaction for a worthy cause - our kids. I was also reminded of the party that is RE every Sunday morning at the ten o'clock hour ... a party dedicated to building strong relationships and responsible young lives, but also a lot of fun. Echoed by the high energy discussion in the Fourth Principle Forum, and the reflective power of spirit circle, and the celebration of music that is every Sunday morning's choir rehearsal. All going on simultaneously, and that doesn't even count the informal party in the hospitality committee's domain, or the folks in and out of the office setting up for this or that church activity.

Sunday morning is the biggest, most diverse party we host, but that same "what else is going on?" atmosphere extends to multiple activities in the building many weeknights. Different agendas, different interest groups, different folks benefiting from what we do. We said in a retreat last summer that one of the unique qualities of this congregation was an unofficial culture of encouragement. If you want to try something, we try to find a way to say yes, and make some resources (affirmation, promotion and space chief among them) available to help make it happen.

Space is a resource that is at a bit of a premium in the church right now - finding a time when everyone can show up for an event is likely to be matched by the difficulty of finding an open room. We've recently created a little more space for our growing nursery population (and gained a new small meeting room in the bargain) but the trade off is that our social hall is a little smaller. At two upcoming services (March 7 and April 11, we'll look at what it means to be a growing, busy congregation - specifically in terms of the possible purchase of the commercial building directly behind the church.

Would such an expansion solve all our space issues? No, and certainly not right away. But in terms of our ability to say yes to one another, and to serve the community, it's an exciting prospect. Would we gain needed parking? Certainly. Could we host two social events simultaneously? Most likely. Would we move RE to the "annex?" Possibly. Would we be hosting four or five small activities a night during the week? Those are exciting possibilities that require a lot of discussion and planning. Would the rummage sale, already a boon to low and moderate income people in Hobart, expand to be a year round resale shop? You never know.

As for now, consider our crowded calendar and sometimes crowded venue as both an opportunity and an invitation. The opportunity is to build community, whether it is at ten AM before service - when there's so much going on you really can't afford not to be here - or at any of upwards of a dozen other weekly activities on average. The invitation is to dream - how big could the party be? The party for social justice, the party for fellowship and learning, the party for community service and spiritual growth and intellectual stimulation and family enrichment. Every time we step to those big wall calendars in Jan's office to see when and where we can squeeze in this or that gathering, we issue the invitation anew. The parties are on! You coming?

Love, Roger

## From the President

The old Chinese curse is reputed to go: 'May you live in interesting times'.

Last June, like many Americans, I was laid off, just before going to the UUA General Assembly, and just before taking over as congregational president. Probably no one was more surprised than me that I decided I really could make a living by consulting on the things I've been doing for most of my work life: working primarily with non-profit agencies. The upshot is that I've continued doing a lot of what I was doing before as a board member (part of my work when I was at the Post-Tribune was to officially represent the paper on about ten – yes, ten! -- community agency boards and literacy coalitions). I make a lot less money than before, but so far I'm paying the bills, and I'm working on things I hope will make a difference. And so far, I've been able to maintain my charitable contributions, which are as important to me as just about anything else I do.

Last year, we were just beginning to come to grips with the idea that we would be growing for awhile, and so far, that is proving to be the case. We're looking at the good problem of how to fit more people in our already-full space, and purchasing the graphic arts building behind us looks like a good possibility. And the Transitions Committee is well along in the process of helping the congregation think about what kind of new minister we'll look for when Roger retires next year.

And through it all, your support of our congregation and its work is holding strong. Like all organizations, our leadership have been worried that the economic downturn would force people to cut back on their giving, and even worse, cut back on what you had already pledged (which is what we plan our next year's budget on). But it hasn't happened. And a sure sign of a strong and vibrant congregation is when pledges stay strong even in a hard economy.

We asked, after the Haiti earthquake, and you gave almost \$1000, plus more than \$200 additional to support an earthquake refugee family. We just had a marvelous, fun beer tasting event in support of an equally marvelous Freedom to Marry Reception. We continue to support local needy families at the holidays. And

we have now hit a kind of 'critical mass' in Children's Religious Education (RE), with by my unscientific count a dozen or more kids every week – and a good Children's RE program, with the new families drawn to it, and social action/social witness programs (what we call Faith In Action), are the *most important* single indicators of the health of a congregation.

So now comes the hard part. I'm asking you to increase your pledge for the coming year. How much is up to you. But the concept of the tithe goes back long before the Jewish or Christian faiths. Giving away one-tenth of one's good fortune has come to be a universal symbolic goal. Ironically, since I no longer have a steady income, my giving to the congregation is now well over one-tenth. But for most of us, look at how much you give now, as a percentage of your income. I challenge you to increase your giving by one percentage point for next year. If everyone did that, we would be able to grow all the things we need to grow, easily: RE, social action/social witness, and all the ways we need to minister to each other as well as to the world.

I'll hope to see you at the Congregational Meeting on March 7, so we can talk more about our vision for our congregations' future.

Peace -- Don

## Pie With The Parson

Join the Minister for a few minutes conversation and a cup of coffee (or piece of pie), or stay longer and share a meal. Attendance at PWP varies between a couple and a bunch ... but the talk is always lively.

Two opportunities in March

Wed March 10, 11 AM to 1 PM in Hobart at the Bright Spot, just down Main Street from the church

Wed Feb 17, 5 PM to 7 PM in Valparaiso at Broadway Cafe, 1810 Morthland (intersection of Rtes 30 and 130, just east of VU campus.



## Membership

New UU Sessions in The Parish Hall of the Church  
Choice of afternoon or evening sessions  
Sign-up Sheet is posted or call the church at (219) 942-1611

### Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Sessions 1 & 2: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm repeated 7pm - 9pm

Session 1: "Sharing Personal Religious Odysseys"

led by Brian Barnes

Session 2: "Learning the History of Unitarian-Universalism" led by Roger Brewin

### Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Sessions 3 & 4: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm repeated 7pm - 9pm

Session 3: "Serving as a Unitarian-Universalist Member" led by Carla Banks

Session 4: "Exploring Issues within Unitarian-Universalism" led by Diane Moryl

## Poetry, Prose and Potluck

The "Poetry, Prose and Potluck" group meets monthly in one another's homes, where we break bread together, check in, and share poetry and prose readings. Carla Banks, Fred and Mary Pat Bone, Richard Johnson and Marti Pizzini, and Suzanne and Glenn Keldsen form the core of the group. We do, however, welcome new members and visitors, especially those who live in Porter County and near-by. Our March meeting will be held on the second Wednesday (Mar. 10) at the home of Fred and Mary Pat Bone. For further information contact the Bones or Marti either by phone or through the church office.

## Circle Singing Schedule for February

The next Circle Singing session will be on Thursday, March 4, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you would like to hear and see a sample of what the group did at an earlier meeting, go to [www.reverbnation.com/singinginthecircle](http://www.reverbnation.com/singinginthecircle) and scroll down a little to see the "Singing in the Circle" video that Patti Shaffner recorded. Since Patti is currently in rehearsals for the Fourth Street

Theater's forthcoming production of *Nine* it's likely that the March 4th session will be the only one in March. If that situation changes, we will get the word out via e-mail, FaceBook, and inserts in the Order of Service.

## Rummage Sale

Spring Rummage Sale will be held March 5 & 6 in the church fellowship hall. You may start dropping off your clean and functional items a week prior to the sale. If you have questions about items you want to donate, please contact Tanya Nelson or Shawn Mueller.

## First Friday Potluck

Due to scheduling conflicts, our First Friday potlucks in March and April are cancelled. The First Friday in May we will have a backyard picnic at the Martin/Eberhardt's in Valparaiso. All are welcome. Stay tuned for details.

## Welcoming Congregation

A big "Thank You!" to everyone who helped make the Welcoming Congregation Committee's second annual Freedom to Marry Reception a success! Nearly 50 people enjoyed camaraderie, food, music and dancing at the event, which also included Doug Harper as Keynote Speaker. Rev. Roger Brewin gave the opening words, and Karen Quinlan closed out the reception. Additional words were given by Rev. Rochelle Brown of Metropolitan Community Church as we came inside from our candlelight vigil. Approximately 70 cars went by, and three drivers honked.

The Welcoming Congregation Committee is looking for people to join us and help us plan future events and ongoing programs. For more information, contact Kele Ivey at (219) 613-4991, or [revia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revia@sbcglobal.net), or Patricia Riley-Churilla at (219) 929-9372 or [pagan-heart@rocketmail.com](mailto:pagan-heart@rocketmail.com).



**What are the UU Sessions?** Let us help you go on a Personal Religious Journey. You will be intrigued to learn how many of us from The Membership Committee arrived at this destination. Just four sessions in two meetings - History of Unitarian Universalism, along with Issues and Concerns, and The Role Of The Member. Upcoming UU Sessions on April 7th and April 21st. Signup Sheet in The Parish Hall.

## What's Up Downstairs?

In February, the theme for the children's Religious Education program was Love, Kindness and Respect. The children learned the song, "Turn the World Around" and sang with the choir on Valentine's Day. They—again with the choir-- also helped me tell the story of the Monk who wanted to pray but found it difficult with all the night noises coming in. We had a large class that day, ranging in age from 3 to 16, and both the children and the adults did a marvelous job following instructions and "singing" the story.

In March, our theme will be "Forgiveness and Justice." We will meet after church, at about 12:30, on Sunday, February 28, to plan the curriculum for March.

Themes in the coming months include "Death and Hope" in April (Easter themes from a UU perspective) and "Service and Responsibility" in May. With the end of May, we lose the coordination of Ashley Horan who has worked with us this past church year to help us find a path to providing the kind of quality programming we had hoped for.

Sometime after I finish writing this, I'll be trying to pull together a proposed budget for the Finance Committee and the Board. I hope that it comes as no surprise that I will be recommending that the Board authorize the hiring of a part-time Director of Religious Education. This is the perfect timing for our congregation to make this move—while we have energy and attendance and as we prepare ourselves to go into search for our new minister. It is also the perfect time to consider providing for our children the kind of organized programming that comes from having a paid professional charged with the responsibility to do so.

I'm so grateful for the opportunities I have had these past few months working with Ashley and with other members of the RE committee. We've done some powerfully creative work—and had some fun in the meantime. We could use your support in the coming months as we prepare for the next church year and the next round of families who come in, seeking a safe place for their children to explore what it means to be in religious community.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about our children's programming, feel free to contact me. Tina Porter [tlporter@comcast.net](mailto:tlporter@comcast.net)

## Special Congregational Meeting, Stewardship Sunday, March 7, 2010

The Finance Committee has been working with the other church committees as they make their plans for next year. We are now calling a Special Congregational Meeting so that those committees can apprise the congregation of their plans, as well as the projected costs associated with implementing those plans. This meeting will be preceded by a shortened (45-minute) worship service conducted by Rev. Brewin and an abbreviated (30-minute) social hour. We intend to begin the Special Meeting promptly at 12:15 p.m., and we anticipate that the meeting will last approximately one hour.

Unlike last year's meeting, this year's meeting will only focus on five key areas:

- 1) Building and Grounds,
- 2) Worship and Music,
- 3) Religious Education,
- 4) Faith in Action, and
- 5) Revenues.

Please mark your calendar with this critically important event as we look forward to swelling the heart of Unitarian-Universalism in Northwest Indiana.

Glenn Keldsen, Chair, Finance Committee

## Time To Chime In

In an effort to consistently start the Sunday service on time, we will be ringing a chime in the fellowship hall a minute or two before the service begins. When you hear the chime, please head into the sanctuary. The Worship Committee

## Parking – Another Good Problem To Have

As the snow melts, new Visitor and Handicapped Parking signs will be going up, and some new parking space orientations will be laid out on the north side of the building. Please respect our efforts to welcome newcomers and ensure convenience for those with disabilities. Remember that you can park in the bank and old church lots on the north side of the railroad tracks, on Sunday mornings only.

## Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Present: Don Parker, Brian Barnes, Tim Cook, Kelly Mahler, Judy McCauley, Cheryl Powell, Karen Quinlan, Gail Thomas

Discussion about the high number of recent visitors grew out of check-in; we reviewed our process of visitor greeting and follow-up.

January minutes were reviewed and accepted

December financials were reviewed

- Finance Committee members have been tasked with working with committees to produce budgets by the end of February
- Finance Committee recommends that staff raises be 1% this year, given the cost of living change for 2009 (0.4% decrease), versus the 3% we have given in the past

Committee Reports

- Building and Grounds – Tanya Nelson has requested to resign as chair
- Denominational Affairs – *Motion to accept Gail Thomas as chair* (Quinlan/McCauley) unanimously carried
- Worship – Karen Quinlan will resign as co-chair at the end of the church year, and is working with Hannah Hill to find a replacement
- Faith-in-Action — planning for the Freedom to Marry Reception and the associated fundraiser is going well.  
Earth Hour will happen in March  
\$957.96 has been collected for UUSC Haiti Relief effort so far, plus \$227 to Ashley Horan for the family she is hosting  
STITCH is planning several programs for the next few months; Gail will keep FIA informed
- Transitions is compiling survey results and hopes to be finished in time for meeting with Brent Smith on February 16 (59 surveys were received)
- Membership is working on organizing New UU classes for April. Certified 102 members as of February 1 to UUA. Brian Barnes is working on drafting a communication to the UUA on their process of communicating issues during membership certification

Old Business

- 2011 Budget instructions were passed to committee liaisons; committee chairs are requested to create three-scenario (base, base plus, and

ideal) presentations for March congregational meeting (like last year)

- Exit interviews for previous Board members and committee chairs should be arranged – Tim Cook
- Governance Committee proposal – Brian Barnes. Rationale and proposed committee presented, discussion ensued. We'll need to determine how to do governance over the next couple of months. Need to decide around March or April whether we want to form a temporary governance committee to replace the ad hoc committees listed in the proposal – must function as an ad hoc committee until the congregation approves a permanent committees. Discussion tabled until the next meeting; please take time to study the proposal so that we can vote on it next month

New Business

- Back door security – Ed Mueller agreed that the Hospitality Committee would continue to take the responsibility to lock the back doors when the service begins.
- Jerry Ashmore has requested to begin a Buddhist-style group for 12-Step practitioners; Don approved this, and requested that they donate a sum of their choice to the church
- Floodlights over the front (Main St.) door have been failing – Lynn Electric has provided an estimate (\$547) for installing metal halide lights to replace them. *Motion to approve this estimate* (Barnes/Quinlan) unanimously carried, with the provision that Don investigate more environmentally/ financially sound options

Process Review: Implementing a consent agenda would allow more streamlining of meetings

Meeting adjourned 9:20 pm

## The Jim Gordon Memorial Chili Cookoff

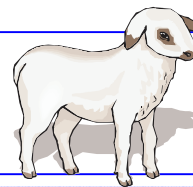
Sunday March 21  
Following Services

See Brian Porter  
for sign-up details  
and to purchase tickets.





# March 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>ETHNIC OUTING</b> SUNDAY MARCH 14TH -1-3PM T.J MALONEY'S IRISH REST. 800 E 81ST AVE Merrillville. RADDISON HO- TEL	<b>1</b> 7 p.m. Board meeting	<b>2</b> 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
<b>7</b> 9:20—9:50 a.m. Meditation 10 a.m. 1st hr. 4th Principle / Spirit Circle / Religious Ed 11 a.m. Service 12 p.m. Coffee Hour	<b>8</b> 7 p.m. Faith-in- Action Commit- tee meeting	<b>9</b> 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	<b>12</b> 7 p.m. Drum- ming 	<b>13</b> 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
<b>14</b> 9:20—9:50 a.m. Meditation 10 a.m. 1st hr. 4th Principle / Spirit Circle / Religious Ed 11 a.m. Service 12 p.m. Coffee Hour	<b>15</b> 6:30 p.m. STITCH Com- mittee meeting	<b>16</b> 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	<b>17</b> 7 p.m. Unitarian Theology for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	<b>18</b> 6 p.m. TOPS 8 p.m. AA	<b>19</b> 6:30 p.m. Sci- ence Café	<b>20</b> 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group 7 p.m. CUUPS
<b>21</b> 9:20—9:50 a.m. Meditation 10 a.m. 1st hr. 4th Principle / Spirit Circle / Religious Ed 11 a.m. Service 12 p.m. Coffee Hour	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6 p.m. TOPS 7 p.m. Buddhist 12 step group 8 p.m. AA	<b>26</b> 6:30 p.m. Movie Night 	<b>27</b> 7 a.m. Empty Circle Zen Group
<b>28</b> 9:20—9:50 a.m. Meditation 10 a.m. 1st hr. 4th Principle / Spirit Circle / Religious Ed 11 a.m. Service 12 p.m. Coffee Hour	<b>29</b> 6 p.m. Novel Notions (Kathy Arney's House) 7 p.m. Dream Discussion	<b>30</b> 7 p.m. Empty Circle Zen Group <hr/> 31 5th Wednesday 	<b>31 Rummage Sale</b> March 5 & 6 is just around the corner and we are still in need of volunteers for the Rummage Sale. It is understood that it takes a lot of bodies, energy, stamina, and talent to pull off these events. The sign up sheet will be in the parish hall or you can contact Tanya Nelson via phone 942- 			

**The Mission of the Rifenburg-Bracken Library is to be a resource on faith, spirituality, and religion for the congregation of First Unitarian Church of Hobart, its friends, visitors, and the public.**

The Library carries materials on faith, spirituality, religion, philosophy, self-improvement, religious education, some biographies of key figures of religion and philosophy, and matters of social justice. The Library also carries limited resources on science, social history, fiction, and politics as they apply to the evolution of spirituality and religion.

Due to limits on space and mission, the Library as a rule does not carry general fiction, history, science, biography, and other topics. Donations and recommendations are always welcome, the Library and Archive Committee will determine the appropriateness of the donation to the Library's Mission, and donations deemed not needed for the Library will be sold to raise additional resources for the church.

### SCIENCE CAFE MONTHLY

A monthly celebration of exploration, knowledge and rational thinking, featuring presentations by area scientists

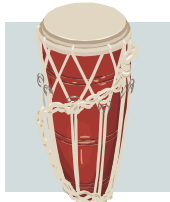
Friday March 19, "Where have All the Blue Hearts gone?" by Barbara Plampin, botanist at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

6:30 PM welcome and light refreshments  
7:00 PM presentation  
7:45 PM Question and Answer session.

Open to the public, school aged children welcome, child care for younger children, free admission.

### *Drumming Friday March 12*

The second Friday of every month we hold a drumming circle starting at 7 PM in the church's fellowship hall.



This event is open to everyone and no experience is necessary. Don't have a drum, don't worry. There are always plenty of extra drums, blocks, pots and pans you can beat out a rhythm on.

If you have question, contact Ed Mueller

### MINISTER'S AVAILABILITY FOR MARCH AND EARLY APRIL

**QUESTION:** When can I meet individually with the minister?

**ANSWER:** 1/2 hour before and 1 hour following the Sunday service on March 7, April 4 and 11.

By appointment: between the hours of 10 am and 6 PM on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup>; Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>; Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>; Friday April 2; Wednesday April 7

Evening appointments (6 pm to 9 PM) available: Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup>; Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup>; Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>; Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>

**QUESTION:** None of these work for me. Can't I just drop by, or make an appointment some other time?

**ANSWER:** Other than Sunday mornings before the service and after (coffee hour) I don't maintain office hours for drop in visits. Accommodating the scheduling restrictions of a half time pastorate, and the desire to practice a green ministry by limiting single purpose trips (I live just over an hour away from the church), I've selected the days and times listed above to coincide with other church commitments for travel and/or prescheduled events. If at all possible, I'd like to set our appointment within those time frames.

But I know that isn't always possible for you, so if we must, we'll find another time of mutual convenience. In an emergency, of course, I'll come as soon as possible.

**QUESTION:** How do I make an appointment?

**ANSWER:** Call me at (773) 881 4028; email me at [Rabrewin@aol.com](mailto:Rabrewin@aol.com); or ask me Sunday mornings. Or call the Administrator, Jan Zorn, mornings at 219 942 1611; Jan is familiar with my upcoming schedule.

**QUESTION:** Are there group opportunities to interact with the minister?

**ANSWER:** There are at least two each month: in March they are:

First Friday March 5<sup>th</sup> in the evening; Pie with the Parson from 11 AM to 1 PM on Wed. the 10<sup>th</sup>, at Bright Spot in Hobart, and on Wed the 24<sup>th</sup> at Broadway Cafe in Valpo. .

***The Vanguard***  
***FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HOBART***

**SUPPLEMENT TO  
 MARCH ISSUE**

**Transitions Committee Update**

The Transitions Committee has been working hard with Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, our congregational consultant from All Souls Church in Grand Rapids, MI. As many of you know, we are spending most of this church year learning and preparing for the transition we face as Rev. Brewin retires at the end of summer 2011.

This past month we have been examining the results of our survey of members and friends and would like to thank everyone who participated in this effort and returned a completed survey. Below are some brief observations about the results. Please take time to examine the detailed survey compilation in the fellowship hall next time you are at church.

During the next month, we will be exploring the nature of ministry for UU's and for our church. Be sure to attend the worship service on March 28 to hear more from Rev. Smith and join a discussion following the service about ministry. If you have any questions about the survey results, this upcoming event on the nature of ministry, or anything else about our activities, please ask one of us!

Transition Committee: Tim Cook, Brian Barnes, Carla Banks, and Laurie Eberhardt

**Congregational Survey Results:**

Out of 60 surveys returned we know that geographically the congregation is widely scattered throughout NWI with 35% of respondents being from Valparaiso and 12.5% from Hobart - the two largest representations. Over half have lived in NWI for more than 20 years. Two thirds of the respondents are female. A majority of the respondents are over age 57 with only 5% being under age 37.

Attending for over ten years represents 45%. Over one half are serving on a board or committee and over 90% give financially to the congregation on a regular basis. Median income is about average for the area. More than half attend worship most Sundays. Of respondents, 37% have children living at home, and one half have adult children who live elsewhere. Politically, 78% are liberal to very liberal. Religiously 90% are liberal to very liberal. And, 56% of respondents hold either a masters or doctoral degree.

From page three of the survey where we asked people to rank words describing congregational and religious life we learned that inspiring Sunday worship with good music along with the hospitality of the congregation and helping others were rated most important by respondents. Not surprisingly, the written comments at the end of the survey were the most interesting. Overall we found that most people were a) willing to take the time to write extensive comments, and b) filled with a great passion for our church community and what we do. We encourage you to find a full listing of these comments along with other survey results posted in the fellowship hall.

***A Liberal Religious Presence in Northwest Indiana Since***

# ***The Vanguard*** ***FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HOBART***

SUPPLEMENT TO  
 MARCH ISSUE

## **Our Covenant With Each Other**

From time to time we need to remind ourselves of the various ways we are in covenant with each other.

At least twice since the beginning of the year, fresh food has been left out in the Children's RE area downstairs, and at least twice, rooms have been left after meetings in a condition where they needed to be tidied up before they could be used next (I know because I've seen them and cleaned them up).

Let's be clear that it was not the Children's RE staff who left food out. This was done by persons (almost always children) taking food downstairs from Coffee Hour after the service. In one case, the room left uncleaned was by adults, and in the other case (because, again, it was the Children's RE room), most likely children.

Part of our covenant with each other includes the courtesy of leaving the spaces we've used ready for use by those who come after us. This includes teaching our children the importance of their being a part of this covenant. We also have outside groups who use various spaces in our building, who deserve our hospitality in leaving them a clean space to use.

I also shouldn't have to remind everyone that leaving food out attracts vermin, which none of us want.

If you are a parent whose child uses the basement after the service, you need to make sure your child cleans up after themselves. Ideally parents whose children use the basement after the service should be on hand to supervise their children, or share those duties.

And all of us need to take a moment when we're done using a space to make sure it's

ready for the next group to use. As we grow, and more people share the same space, this covenant we have with each other becomes ever more important.

## **Greeters Needed!**

It's getting warmer! And attendance is up. Greeters for the front and back doors are more important than ever, to make both newcomers and old hands feel welcome. Sign up on the clipboard on the Greeters Stand by the back door, or see Don.

## **District Assembly April 30 – May 2 Held in Wheeling, Illinois**

Get a look at what's going on in the District by attending this event in Wheeling. Cost can be as little as \$75 with a 2-hour volunteer staffing commitment, or \$95 if registered by April 15. See the District web site, [www.cmwd-uua.org](http://www.cmwd-uua.org), for information and to register.

## **Gail Thomas is our new Denominational Affairs Chairman**

The Denominational Affairs Committee maintains communication with and interacts with the Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA), the Central Midwest District (CMwD), and the Chicago Area Unitarian-Universalist Council (CAAUC). It is an important role for our congregation and keeps us informed of what is happening in Unitarian-Universalism beyond the walls of our own congregation.

**The Chili Cook Off** will be held on March 21, immediately after the service, or about Noon. As in the past, this is a fundraiser for church projects. Tickets are \$5.00 each, \$10.00 per family up to 3 members or \$15.00 per family 4 or more. Ballot box stuffing with dollars (or larger currency) will determine the Best Chili winner.