



The Leaf

June/July 2008

The Newsletter of the First Universalist Church
of New Madison, Ohio, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday Services 10 AM

June 1: Chuck Thomas

June 8: Richard Venus

June 15: Richard Venus

June 22: Leslie Woodward

June 29: Richard Venus

July 6: Derek Parker

July 13: Nancy Bowen

July 20: Richard Venus

July 27: TBA

Youth RE & Childcare
start at 10 AM

Upcoming Events

FISH Offering Sundays

June 1 & July 6

Food and Fellowship

June 1 & July 6

Lunch at Ft. Black Buffet after Sunday services! All are invited.

Board of Directors Meetings

Everyone is welcome!

June 24, 7 PM

July 22, 7 PM

Pet Show

Friday, July 4th, 9 AM

in front of Tri-Village School

Richard's Reflections

Bob Herbert, a columnist for the *New York Times*, wrote recently, "In a 19th-century miscegenation case, a black man in Tennessee was charged with criminal fornication. The man's defense was that the woman, who was white, was his wife. They had been married lawfully in another state. That argument was rejected by the Tennessee Supreme Court, which maintained that 'its acceptance would necessarily lead to condoning the father living with his daughter...in lawful wedlock, and the Turk being allowed to establish his harem at the doors of the capitol.'"

"We have a tendency to prohibit things simply because we don't like them," Mr. Herbert continues, "because they don't appeal to us. They don't feel quite right. Or we've never done it that way before. And when things don't feel quite right, when they make us uncomfortable, we often leap, with no basis in fact, to the conclusion that they are unnatural, immoral, degenerate, against the will of God. And then the persecution begins."

Recently, the California Supreme Court struck down two state laws that limited marriages to unions between a man and a woman and has ruled that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. Ironically, the court drew on a ruling from 60 years ago that struck down a state ban on interracial marriage. The ruling was denounced by religious groups who promised to support a November ballot initiative that would amend the California Constitution to ban same-sex marriage and overturn the court's decision. Those groups are sounding much like that Tennessee Court 60 years ago, spreading fear and innuendo in the name of Christianity.

Last night I was in a meeting with a gay ministerial colleague who was describing how challenging it was raising his 8-year-old son with his partner. The conversation seemed as natural and healthy as any I've heard about child-rearing and the ups-and-downs of growing up and growing old. This gay couple is managing life in a way that will give their son as much hope and promise as any heterosexual couple, with no assurance that all will work out well, but with every assurance that they will do their utmost to care for their son's welfare. They are not allowed to marry because Ohio law prohibits such. Their life-style, however, is every bit one of a healthy marriage and a healthy family. Ohio is wrong to ban such a union.

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations at its General Assemblies has voted to support gay marriage and I am most willing to join in an "unofficial" marriage any gay or lesbian couple seeking such a union.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

1 Rob Williams
 7 Paula Godsey
 8 Joe West
 16 Kimberly Searls
 18 Martha Andrews
 19 Becky Grimm
 20 Tammy Ketring

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

2 Tye & Vickie McMahon
 10 Shawn & Deetra Huntington
 13 Laura & Andy Willis
 20 Claire & Rob Williams
 21 Dick & Christel Brooks
 28 Lori & Dan Lucas

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

2 Pat Lipps
 2 Barbara Hamelberg
 9 Leo Williams
 13 Chris Price
 17 Roberta Feltman
 20 Janet Cassity
 22 Nanette Fritsche
 29 Emerson Behee
 31 Dick Brooks

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

3 Wayne & Mary Evelyn
 Geeting

Sharing Joys

Tri-Village High School had a group of six students to place second in the Dayton Region Ohio Stock Simulation and second at the team state level as well. The students on the winning team are Ian Burns, Margaret Cobb, Amelia Frazier, Maria Neff, Addie Overfield, and Daniel Rife. Ian graduated from Tri-Village High School May 31st, 2008.

In the evening of May 9th, 2008 Jessica Burns graduated from Indiana University East earning a Bachelor's degree in Natural science and Concentration mathematics.

Parents of Ian and Jessica are Greg and Julie Burns, Grandmothers are Virginia Burns and Rita Fisher Walters.

Harvest Sounds

Things are in the works for our annual Harvest Sounds concert, which will be our eighth event providing help to area non-profit organizations. Do you have a suggestion for this year's recipient of the profits from the concert? The date is Sunday, November 3, which will be that month's Food 'n Friendship Day. Dede, Paula, and Roberta appreciate your suggestions, and thank you.

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