



Mount Helena

# The Free Spirit

October 2009

## UU Happenings This Month...

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - Knitting for Peace**, 7-9pm,  
Home of Ruth Luke, 301 S. Rodney, 461-7435  
& **Rocky Mountain Front Meeting**, 7pm, Great Northern

**October 4<sup>th</sup> Service – Potluck Sunday**  
Intergenerational Service  
Led by Magalie Belanger

**October 11<sup>th</sup> Service – Sunday**  
“Embracing Place through Body, Mind, and Spirit”  
Led by Peg Hunter & Patrick Johnson

**October 15<sup>th</sup> - Knitting for Peace**, 7-9pm,  
Home of Cynthia Overturf, 2513 Goldrush,  
431-8955

**MDD Annual Meeting, Colorado, Oct. 15-18<sup>th</sup>**

**October 18<sup>th</sup> Service – Sunday**  
**Guest Speaker, Clay Scott**

**October 19<sup>th</sup> - UU 101 Class**, First Session  
6-8:30pm, Plymouth Congregational Church  
Contact Lynda Saul, 461-3828

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> - bUUk cIUUb**, 7-9pm,  
Contact Ruth Piccone, 459-5740

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Annual Appreciation Supper**  
Plymouth Fellowship Hall, 6:00pm  
Begin Pledge Drive

**October 25<sup>th</sup> Service – Sunday**  
“Time to Stand and Stare”  
Led by Carolyn Laceky

**October 26<sup>th</sup>, UU 101 Class**, Second Session  
(See above for information)

**November 1<sup>st</sup> Service – Potluck Sunday**  
November 7<sup>th</sup> – Circle of 8 Dinners  
November 23<sup>rd</sup> – End of Pledge Drive

## Halloween Frights, by President Magalie Belanger

October brings the season of frights, monsters and ghouls - and I don't think that many words strike as much fear in the hearts of our fellowship such as words like pledge, contributions, and the likes. Maybe it's not as much fear as discomfort.



Money is not a subject we much like to talk about. Sometimes it brings feeling of guilt or worry. How much to give? Do I give enough? Why should I give? These are questions you may ask yourself or hear around on Sundays.

The truth is we need money. There I said it, and I confronted my fear. Our ability to meet our visions will inevitably depend in large measure on the generosity of our fellowship. The future is very bright at Big Sky UU and we are at an extraordinary time in the life, and history of our faith.

Our move, our growth, our increased involvement and opportunities are all a way for us to participate in a vision. I am excited to be living these dreams with you and look forward to what this year before us will bring.

## Worship Committee by Bill Kronholm

If you are interested in becoming involved with the heart of our fellowship, you might consider joining the Worship Committee. The Big Sky UU has no minister. We are a lay lead fellowship with volunteers organizing and giving our Sunday services.

The Worship Committee is responsible for these worship services. We usually meet three or four times a year to review how our services are going and what changes in ritual or direction might be appropriate.

But the bulk of the work is done by individual members during the year. Members sign up for a month or two over the course of the year and are responsible for lining up worship service presenters for that month.



Usually, they will take one of those weeks for themselves, but not always. They also recruit guest speakers and conduct the non-sermon portions of those services. They serve as liaisons to assist the speakers and presenters as needed. It's a chance to directly influence the worship experience of our fellowship and, and it can be very rewarding work.

We want to especially encourage newer members to join the committee. New blood and new ideas are important, so don't feel you haven't been a member of the fellowship long enough. We invite you to join us.

**Announcing:  
New link on the  
Big Sky UU webpage**



At Magalie's suggestion, and with Blake the Web Master's help, the UU Earth Circle nature-based group now has a link on our Big Sky webpage.

It will give you information about seasonal celebrations and/or classes you may want to attend.

Earth-centered traditions to us mean: neo-Pagan spirituality, Goddess-centered, indigenous, Humanist, or even earth-centered Christian. (Atheist too!?)

See us at....

[www.bigskyyuu.org/earthcircle.htm](http://www.bigskyyuu.org/earthcircle.htm)

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**Many, many thanks  
Worship Leaders**

for  
September – **Bill Kronholm**  
for  
October - **Carolyn Laceky**



If it weren't for your leadership,  
there would be NO  
Sunday Services!

## **There Were Only 3 Children**, by Magalie Belanger

When Ryan and I first started going to Big Sky UU, in 2006, there were only 3 children under Ellie Warren's care every Sunday. Now three years later, we sometimes have as many as 15 children on Sunday and that brings a whole new set of opportunities, but also responsibilities. We've gone through a few changes over the last few years. Becky Warren, then chair of children's Religious Education, would ask parents to take turns leading RE with planned lessons and activities. Jeannette Ulland tried a similar approach last year. This year we are trying a different approach.

Mary Decker who has been our wonderful helper these past couple of years and Ellie Warren, who is returning to our fellowship, have agreed to share the responsibility for the 2009-2010 church year. On alternate Sundays, one of them will be the planner and the leader of the session and one of them will be the helper. We will also try to incorporate intergenerational services on a more regular basis, in the hopes of really encouraging our children to know that the fellowship is a second family. Our fellowship is a strength for our families and our community.

This new system does not mean the end of adult involvement. We will need an RE chair or coordinator next fall. Also if you have an idea for a service or an activity that you could lead with the children please come forward. Perhaps you would like to share in a cultural celebration or a religious heritage.

It may be cliché but our children are the future of our faith and our fellowship. They need us, and frankly, we need them. Thank you to Ellie Warren, Mary Decker, Becky Warren, Jeannette Ulland and everyone that reads stories, or volunteers with Children's Religious Education.



## **Report from the Home Exploration Committee,**

by Bill Kronholm, Chair

The Home Exploration Committee met in September to begin the task of searching for a long-term home for our fellowship, but decided more information is needed on the BSUUF financial situation before any solid options can be considered.

The move from the Christian Science Church to Plymouth Congregational Church will cost money, and the BSUUF board is asking members and friends to increase their 2010 pledges by 20 percent to cover the higher rent. Even that will generate only enough income to cover our \$600-\$750 monthly rent; it would not cover any substantial sums for renting a commercial facility and converting it to a worship space for the Fellowship, at this time.

The committee therefore decided to make only general inquiries this fall. Blake Gardiner is surveying other UU fellowships in Montana to learn their budgets, pledge incomes, and housing costs. Bill Kronholm will check with some Helena real estate agents to get a general feel for the cost of renting commercial space that will serve the long-term needs of the fellowship.

In addition, over the next two months, committee members will gather informal opinions and suggestions from fellowship members on their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with Plymouth and their desire for changes. Talk to Bill Kronholm, Lynda Saul, Becky Warren, Blake Gardiner, Carolyn Laceky, or Magalie Belanger to make your feelings known. Those with specific suggestions for other meeting places are asked to do basic research on that option, particularly on anticipated costs.

The BSUUF pledge drive will begin on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and continue through November 22<sup>nd</sup>, so by early December we'll have a good idea of what the financial picture will be next year.

Continued on next page.....

## Food Share Sunday Is every Sunday



## Big Sky UU

### Board of Directors

Magalie Belanger – President  
Jan Ellen Siemers – Vice President  
Rebecca Hargis – Treasure  
Patrick Johnson – Secretary  
Jeff Palmer – At Large Member  
Michele Webster – At Large Member

### Committees

Membership - Joyce Kronholm  
Religious Ed. Child –  
Religious Ed. Adult – Lynda Saul  
Social Justice - Magalie Belanger  
Welcoming – Carolyn Laceky  
Worship - Bill Kronholm

**Music Director** – Virginia Niccolucci

### Mailing Address

Big Sky UU Fellowship  
PO Box 816  
Helena, MT 59624

### Message Phone

(406) 449-3096

### Services

Plymouth Congregational Church  
400 S. Oakes Dr.  
Helena, MT 59601

### Newsletter

Jan Ellen Siemers 459-0102  
[JEhelenacopper.net](mailto:JEhelenacopper.net)

### Webmaster

Blake Gardiner at  
[blake@helena-mont.us](mailto:blake@helena-mont.us)

More information at  
[www.bigskyyuu.org](http://www.bigskyyuu.org)

With that information, the Dec. 6 potluck, following services, will be a BSUUF “town hall meeting” where we all can discuss our feelings about Plymouth, our financial position going into 2010, and what options might be open to us. For instance, we can reach a general agreement to plan to stay or, to create a 5 year plan for getting our own home, etc. In other words, the Committee wants to get some idea from the membership as to what direction they are to take for further planning.

## Upcoming Events...

### Adult Religious Education

### UU 101 – Oct 19 and 26 Evenings, by Lynda Saul, Chair

Are you curious to explore more about the history and living tradition of Unitarianism and Universalism? Were there really more Unitarian signatories to our nation’s Declaration of Independence than any other faith? What about the 7 Principles of our faith? I thought UU’s were creedless. And then I heard reference that there are rituals unique to UU? What are these? What’s the story behind the chalice? Have Unitarians really been in Helena for over 100 years, what did these early UUs do in our community, and how are we connected to the current Grand Street Theater building? If you are intrigued about these and other questions of the Unitarian Universalist faith, please join Lynda Saul and Joyce Kronholm for a 2 evening session titled UU 101.

The classes will be Monday evenings October 19 and October 26 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Plymouth Congregational Church. Please call Lynda at 461-2838 to let us know you’ll be joining us for this exploration of the UU faith. Child care can be available on site with 1 week advance notice.

## October 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Let the Board Cook for You! by Jeff Palmer, Head Cook

Come to the Plymouth Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00pm, for the Annual Appreciation Supper. The UU board will cook an Asian themed dinner starting with chicken or tofu stir-fry and wine. The Board wishes to thank everyone, members and friends for continuing to make this community thrive and grow. It’s been an interesting year with the move and the new place. Let’s all get together and have a meal.

There are rumors that the Board will entertain us with singing and skits. Child Care will be provided (after dinner) so come one and all. Let’s make this the best fellowship themed dinner EVER.

PS... If you know how to sing or do skits...the Board really needs your help. ☺

## Circle of 8 Dinners - Planned for November 7, 2009

This fall’s Circle of Eight Dinners will be Saturday, Nov. 7, at 5 p.m. The dinners are casual and fun and an opportunity to get to know one another in a small group setting. Our past dinners have been hugely successful.



For those of you who haven’t attended one, here’s how it works. You sign up in advance to attend a dinner. There will be sign-up sheets every Sunday in October after the service in the fellowship hall. The cut-off date to sign up is October 28.

A dinner host will then contact you to ask you to bring a side dish or a dessert and give you the location of the host’s home. The host provides the main dish. Hosts are being lined up, and dinner assignments will be made in an effort to mix newer folks with not-so-new folks.

This fall the Circle Dinners are being planned by **Jeanne Powell** and **Joyce Kronholm**. If you have questions, contact Jeanne at 465-0954 or [jbelleot99@gmail.com](mailto:jbelleot99@gmail.com)