



# The Free Spirit

News from the Big Sky Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • Helena, Montana

December 2008

## UU Happenings This Month ...

Thursday, Dec. 4 – Knitting for Peace, 7 p.m. at the home of Ruth Luke, 301 S. Rodney.

**Sunday, Dec. 7 - Potluck Sunday!  
Point/Counterpoint: Is This All There Is?  
Led by Donna Davis and Carl Junkerman.**

Friday, Dec. 12 – BSUUF Board meeting, 4:30 p.m. at the home of Carol Barnes, 930 State Street. All are welcome

**Sunday, Dec. 14 - What I Be: Self  
Acceptance and Aspirations. Led by  
Rachel Carroll.**

Thursday, Dec. 18 – Knitting for Peace, 7 p.m. at the home of Ruth Luke, 301 S. Rodney.

**Sunday, Dec. 21 - Music to Celebrate the  
Holidays. Led by Ginny Niccolucci**

**Sunday, Dec. 28 – Good News and Bad  
News: We're All Another Year Older. Led  
by Bill Kronholm.**

## 2009 Pledge Drive meets goal

We have done very well with our pledge drive -- \$15,130 has been pledged for 2009, enough to meet our preliminary budget. THANK YOU ALL!

Of our 44 members, 91 percent have pledged. We have a few members yet to pledge and board members will be calling them. In addition, 10 of our non-member friends pledged as well.

On Dec. 7 and 14 after the service there will be a Chat with the Board downstairs in the northwest corner. We will have a preliminary budget, and we encourage you to  
*(continued on page 2)*

## Hudders Child Dedication Highlights Nov. 23 service

Our Nov. 23 service was highlighted by a Ceremony of Dedication for Alexander and Elizabeth Hudders, the children of Gary and Alyssa Hudders. The celebration was led by Lynda Saul.

Unitarian Universalists believe that every child brings new life and hope into the world. The Ceremony of Dedication allows the community to bless the child, celebrate the blessing of this gift of life, and formally embrace the child as a member of our faith community.

In the course of our lives, there are times such as a child dedication when we need to conduct special worship services and ceremonies. Others are memorial services and marriages or ceremonies of union.

Members of our fellowship have generously offered to help plan and officiate at these services. (In Montana, an ordained minister is not required for a marriage ceremony to be legal.)

If you wish to have a special ceremony for an important event in your life, please contact a member of the board or the worship committee.



## Report from the Chair: UU Children's Religious Education

By Becky Warren

Our Big Sky UU children's religious education program continues to grow and thrive. This autumn, a group of 16 adult volunteers-- along with our dedicated teen helper, Mary Decker—has worked with a total of 16 kids, with average weekly attendance of around seven.

The general theme of the Fall's activities has been **Sharing food and Gratitude with our Friends and Family**. We have continued to use a combination of Church of the Larger Fellowship lessons, published UU curricula, and nature craft books to supply the weekly stories and activities.

We've made popcorn strings for migrating birds, decorated cookies for our October potluck, and painted wooden chalices for our home dinner tables.

Jeanette Uland and Mary helped the kids to choose a fellowship tree, which we hope to follow and photograph through the seasons.

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**We unite in this fellowship to seek truth, deepen our awareness of religious values, strengthen one another in our free search, maintain the sanctity of the individual conscience bound by no dogmas or creed, and uphold freedom, community, and equal rights for all.**

#### **Board of Directors**

Joyce Kronholm - President (457-8246)  
Magalie Belanger - Vice President  
Jeanne Powell - Treasurer  
Carol Barnes - Secretary  
Jan Ellen Siemers

#### **Committees**

Membership  
Cynthia Overturf  
Religious Education  
Becky Warren (449-6908)  
Social Justice  
Magalie Belanger (202-0629)  
Welcoming  
Rebecca Hargis (459-0380)  
Worship  
Bill Kronholm (457-8246)

#### **Mailing Address**

Big Sky UU Fellowship  
PO Box 816  
Helena, MT 59624

**Message Phone:** (406) 449-3096

#### **Services**

Christian Science Church  
1800 Highland  
Helena, MT 59601  
11:30 a.m. - Everyone Welcome!

Sign up to receive email updates and our newsletter. Write to [w.kronholm@bresnan.net](mailto:w.kronholm@bresnan.net)

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

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

**Big Sky UU Fellowship founded 1983**  
**Helena Unitarian Society founded 1891**

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**Food Share  
Sunday is  
Every Sunday**

## **Children's RE, continued from page 1**

We are planning to perform a short song at the Christmas service on Dec. 21, and will start practicing during RE in December.

With the New Year, I will be passing the children's RE torch on to a team of four parents: Ilka Becker, Magalie Belanger, Kellie McBride, and Jeannette Uland. The craft materials will be housed at the church, and the four leaders will share the cutting of construction paper and selection of picture books.

It will be a delight to watch our growing group of maturing children take on new directions. We'll hope for more colorful contributions to the UU potlucks and marshmallows over the campfires in July.

*On a personal note, I would like to express gratitude to all of you who have shared in welcoming children into our small fellowship. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to again peruse picture books at the library and listen to the Joys and Concerns of four year olds. We are blessed with a wise and creative group!*

## **Pledge Drive, continued from page 1**

come to one of the chats to learn how we put together this budget.

With your input we'll then make the final budget. This will be e-mailed to you two weeks prior to our Jan. 11 annual meeting, as required by our by-laws, for your review. Members will vote to approve or disapprove the budget at the annual meeting.

## **A Closer Look: Membership Care Committee**

**By Joyce Kronholm**

Next year I will be the chair of our Membership Care Committee, and I'd like to tell you a bit about what we do. In addition to me, members are Cynthia Overturf, Kellie McBride, Georgia Lovelady, and Mary Jo Olson.

The "Care" part of our committee keeps in touch with the needs and concerns of members and friends in our fellowship. All of us are important to this community, so if someone needs a card or call, a visit, or a meal, please get in touch with me (457-8246 or [w.kronholm@bresnan.net](mailto:w.kronholm@bresnan.net)) or one of the committee members.

The "Membership" part plans the UU 101 Newcomer Orientation class (tentatively planned for March 8 and 15) and the New Member Welcoming Ceremony, during a Sunday service. We know the Sunday greeters have welcomed newcomers, but we also like to follow up with a call or note inquiring if they have questions or would like additional information.

We welcome hearing from anyone interested in this committee. It's a great way to get to know the wonderful folks in our UU community. Our first meeting is Jan. 6 after the service

## **With Gratitude ...**

... to Mary Decker, Ryan Grandy, Becky Warren, Jeanette Uland, Kellie McBride, Katie Campbell, Nisan Burbridge, Jan Ellen Siemers, Ruth and Lowell Luke, Cynthia Overturf, Ruth Piccone, Ilka Becker, Pad McCracken, and Jim Stoltz, for serving this fall as children's RE teachers

... to Magalie Belanger, Carolyn Laceky, Mary Jo Olson, Michelle Webster, Cynthia Overturf and Rebecca Hargis, who made cinnamon rolls for Nov. 23 to celebrate the last Sunday of pledge month.