

## Music Notes

This April, four of UCC's Music Scholarship students will perform in Urinetown: The Musical, at Wichita State University. WSU Music Theater majors **Luke Walker** and **Ashley Lauren**, along with **Joseph Consiglio**, Vocal Performance major, will be seen on stage. **Nicholas Gilmore**, Masters candidate in Instrumental Conducting at WSU, will conduct the orchestra. Performances are at Wilner Auditorium, April 15, 16 & 17 at 7:30 pm & April 18 at 2:00 pm.

For more information, go to:

[http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=FA\\_PERFORMINGARTS&p=/Season/](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=FA_PERFORMINGARTS&p=/Season/)

**Mandy Brown**, soprano and five year veteran of our UCC Music Scholarship Program, has received a full scholarship to attend Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, TX, this fall in pursuit of her Masters Degree in Opera Performance. Mindful of her talent and work ethic, we can think of no one more deserving. She inspires us all. In addition, "You Are Invited" to the senior voice recital of **Mandy Brown**, Friday, April 9, 2010, 7:30 pm at Wiedemann Hall, Wichita State University.

As part of University Congregational Church's music outreach, a quintet made up of **UCC Music Scholarship students** will perform a madrigal by Gideon Klein, a pianist and composer who was a victim of the Holocaust, at this year's Yom Ha'Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Service). The performance will be Tuesday, April 13th, at 7:00 pm in Wiedemann Hall, Wichita State University.

In another outreach, the **UCC Chancel Choir** will perform a selection of religious and secular music for the residents of Larksfield Place Retirement Community on the evening of Wednesday, May 5th.

## Among Our Own

**Patsy Fogle** passed away on February 26th.

**Pauline Steckley** passed away on March 9th.

Our deepest condolences go to the Fogle and Steckley families.

Condolences to **Rosie Howell** whose daughter passed away.

Speedy recovery wishes to **Esther Doner** regarding her recent surgery.

## At a Glance

**Palm Sunday**, March 28th

· Vivaldi Gloria at 10:30 am

**Maundy Thursday**, April 1st

· Communal Meal at 6:00 pm

**Easter**, April 4th

· Service at 10:30 am, Egg Hunt following

**Be Included** submit news items by April 14th to Julie Baker: [julie4design@gmail.com](mailto:julie4design@gmail.com)

**Go Green** if you prefer to receive an e-newsletter as a PDF each month, let us know: [cathy@ucchurch.org](mailto:cathy@ucchurch.org)

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# Steeple Notes

universitycongregationalchurch

Volume 28, Issue 4

Where head & heart are partners in faith.

April 2010



## News from the belfry



I am pleased to announce that the Robert Meyers Lecture will be presented by Dr. Richard T. Hughes. Dr. Hughes served as Distinguished Professor, Religion Division of Pepperdine University. He is currently a Senior Fellow in the Ernest L. Boyer Center and Distinguished Professor of Religion at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hughes is author of several books, notably *Myths America Lives By* and *Christian America and the Kingdom of God*. Robert Bellah, well known American sociologist wrote of *Christian America and the Kingdom of God*, "A powerful call for truth in the muddled world that confuses Christianity and American nationalism."

Why is Dr. Hughes' work important today? The best example is the current plans in the Texas Board of Education to rewrite its history and sociology textbooks. This process has been commandeered by rightwing conservatives. One example of this extremism includes a rejection of the principle of the separation of church and state. The new text proposals would eliminate the importance of Thomas Jefferson in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century democratic revolutions. Jefferson wrote the Bill for Religious Freedom, which was passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 1786. Jefferson strongly objected to the imposition of religion on any person. The Board would replace Jefferson with Thomas Aquinas and John Calvin in future Texas textbooks. Both were strong advocates of state religion. Many of the leaders of this movement, such as Board Chairman Don McLeroy, had advocated the teaching of creationism with evolution in science classes. He was defeated for re-election this month.

Many of America's textbooks are published in Texas.

We need scholars like Dr. Hughes who continue to study the relationship between faith, government, and culture. We need to know when we rely exclusively on one or the other to determine values and principles for the entire republic.

The Robert Meyers' Lecture will be held the weekend of October 8 – 10, 2010.

Yours in faith,

*Gary*



Dr. Richard T. Hughes

## Right Now

### **Maundy Thursday Service April 1st at 6 pm**

Stories of Tyranny – Songs of Freedom

You will hear stories of women, men, and children who have suffered oppression and songs of freedom and hope offered by members of our chancel choir. Free will offering for dinner and program!

### **1st Annual Super Deluxe Dinner And Wine Tasting Saturday, April 17th 6:00 pm**

Enjoy dinner catered by Johnny Carino's with dessert provided by Grace Kneil and Debbie Green. Then put your listening ears on for a presentation by Jacob Liquor's Italian wine expert, Whitney Post. And that's not all...there will be a Silent Auction. Be prepared to shop. All proceeds go to fund the Outreach Board projects. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office. \$50.00 per person.

### **New Offices Open House Saturday, April 18th after the church service**

The congregation is invited to an Informal Open House to view our new office wing. Please enjoy refreshments in Fellowship Hall and then proceed to our new office wing for a tour.

## Outreach News

The Outreach Board would like to make you aware of several opportunities for helping others over the next few months.

First, collecting food for the Food Bank. This is an ongoing project.

Second, collecting clean, good used clothing for men to benefit Fairview Christian Church Homeless Program. Needs include jeans and gently used men's shoes.

Third, another collection box has been set up in the Fellowship Hall to benefit the homeless and those in need of clothing through the Klothes Kloset that is managed by United Methodist Open Door. It has come to our attention that the "kloset" is empty and they are in need of all kinds of clothing—infants, children's, women's and men's, and bedding as well.

And finally, we have received a request from a member of our church to collect items for the 1st Anglico Headquarters in Afghanistan. These Marines and Sailors are deployed and are heavily engaged in the fighting going on in the Helmand Province. Living conditions are austere and they don't have access to a lot of conveniences. The current CO has provided us with a list of what the teams say they need. If you are so inclined, please make a donation to the church with "gift to soldiers" in the memo line and we will purchase those items and ship them to those serving our country in this unit. A few of the items requested that we will be purchasing include battery powered electric travel razors, ramen noodles, nuts, vacuum sealed tuna packets, tea bags, instant coffee packets, baby wipes, and beef jerky.

## Spirit Quest

### **"Living the Questions: An Introduction to Progressive Christianity"**

Presented by Dr. Meredyth Bellows  
9:00 am Sunday Mornings  
Fellowship Hall

### **RECLAIMING THE WORLD**

March 28 — Restoring Relationships, The Prophetic Jesus, Evil, Suffering & A God of Love

April 4 — The Myth of Redemptive VioDebunking the Rapture, Reclaiming the World

### **CALL TO COVENANT**

April 11 — A Kingdom without Walls, Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision, Incarnation: Divinely Human

April 18 — Prayer: Intimacy with God, Compassion; The Heart of Jesus Ministry, Creative Transformation

April 25 — Embracing Mystery, Where Do We Go From Here?, Closing Communion Tea

### **Religion in Life Class**

Wednesday, April 7th  
Fellowship Hall  
Presented by Dr. Gary Blaine

### **The Other Gospels "The Gospel of Mary"**

Dinner 6:00 pm Cost \$7.00  
Class 6:30 pm

Childcare provided. If you have not made your reservation, please call the church office or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

## Social Scene

### **Woman's Guild Luncheon**

Wednesday, April 7th

OK ladies you get a second chance to hear Denise Dias tell us how to "Cut the Clutter and Get Organized". This program was cancelled in January because of bad weather and now just in time for Spring cleaning we can put her advice to work. Fellowship Hall, Social time is at noon, Lunch is served at 12:30 pm Cost \$7.00. Make your reservation by calling Rosie Howell at 652-7985.

Thursday, May 6th at the Crown Uptown Theatre

May's Women Guild Luncheon will be at the Crown Dinner Theatre on Douglas. 50 tickets have reserved for the "Church Basement Ladies II , The Second Helping" for the matinee. Cost and time will be announced in the bulletin or call the church office for more information. Make your reservation by calling Rosie Howell at 652-7985.

### **Men's Group Lunch**

Thursday, April 8th

Adrian's at 21st and Rock Road ( by Best Buy) at 11:30 am  
Let us know if you need a ride. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office.

**Phone a friend** Hit a rough patch? Need someone to listen? We welcome your call. ■ **Bev Berl** ■ **Kim Carraway** ■ **Andrea Conlee** ■ **Debbie Green** ■ **Phil Rhea** ■ **Karen Robu**, your **Stephen Ministers**.

## Readers Corner

### **Lending Library**

by Lavinia Gerould

Available from our library a portable CD player (donated - thank you!) . If you do not have a CD player at home, you may check out this player with sermon CDs. We are still looking for volunteers to assist with library duties. This is a good way to provide a service to our church in an interesting way. If you are interested, please call Lavinia Gerould at home at 687-9495 or Cathy or Cyndi in the church office 634-0430. A little bit of your time would be a BIG help, Thank you.

## News from the future...our youth

by Karen Robu



Thanks to your generous support of both the Pancake Breakfast, and the Spaghetti Dinner, the youth are well on their way to earning the money needed for their trip to Heifer Ranch in June. We still have spots available for youth who have finished 6th through 12th grades. Parents, call the church if you are interested in registering your child.

Sunday, March 7th the high school group and I met with members of the Islamic Society of Wichita, to learn more about Islam. It was a terrific visit, and very educational. For our final visit of the school year we will meet with the Southwind Sangha Buddhists for an introductory session in Buddhism. This will take place Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita, 7202 E. 21st St. N. Wichita, KS 67206.

Peace,  
Karen

### **Save the Date!**

- **Easter Sunday** – April 4th – **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** following the service for children through 5th grade
- **2010 Vacation Bible School** – June 21st thru 25th from 9 am to noon for children age 3 to completed 5th grade
- **2010 Youth Mission Trip** for Middle & High School Students – June 16th thru 19th at the Heifer Ranch

### **Confirmation Class April 11th to May 16th Pilgrims on the way**

For all 6th thru 8th grade students. Classes will be taught by Dr. Gary Blaine on Sunday mornings from 9 am to 10 am