

Our ministers speak from the heart

We have been rudely reminded by recent events that religion can be a divisive and destructive force in human affairs. But the hundreds who gathered in our meetinghouse on the night of September 11, when Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Unitarian Universalist religious leaders joined in raising their voices for peace, witnessed the better side of the spiritual impulse. In a world where hatred and violence are all too prevalent, the message of Unitarian Universalism is needed more than ever. Tolerance, dialogue, and respect for people of every faith are at the heart of our community. And the spread of these values, more than arms or armies, offers the greatest hope for our common survival.

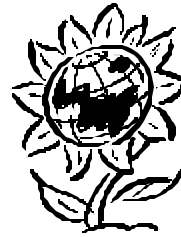
— The Reverend Gary Kowalski

I find it an amazing grace to belong to a religious community in which we don't have to believe alike in order to worship together—in a community that witnesses to a religious pluralism that is the heart of our democratic society. In supporting such a community, we contribute to the visibility of grace in our world. We live out a faith capable of generating light, warmth, and vision in the darkest of times.

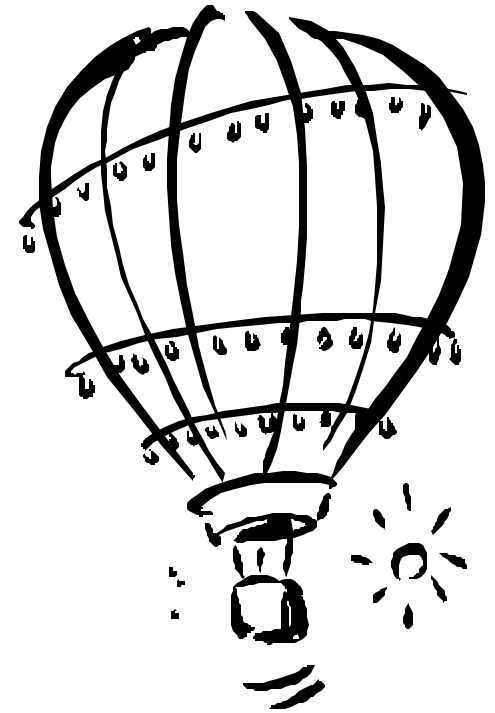
—Roddy O'Neil Cleary, Affiliate Minister

Ministry and Community Programs

Children's Religious Education
Choir
The New U
Book Discussion Groups
Interfaith Thanksgiving
Christmas Breakfast
Zen Meditation
Yoga
Women's Spirituality
Young Adult & Youth Groups
Women's Alliance
Run for the O.N.E. (Old North End)
Interweave (Monthly GLBTQ & Friends Potluck)
Ladies First (Breast Cancer Support)
UU Pagans
Second Saturday Suppers
Men's Group
Welcoming Congregation
Socially Responsible Investing
Kwanzaa
Grief Support
Spectrum
Lay Ministry
Partner Church
Alcoholics Anonymous
Anti-Racism Workshops
Deaf Club
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Day
COVE (For grieving children)
Amnesty International
Covenant Groups
Our Whole Lives (Sexuality Education)
Meals on Wheels



Supporting our Society



Building our
community
for tomorrow

Annual Pledge Drive
2002-2003
First Unitarian Universalist Society
of Burlington, Vermont

Building our community for tomorrow



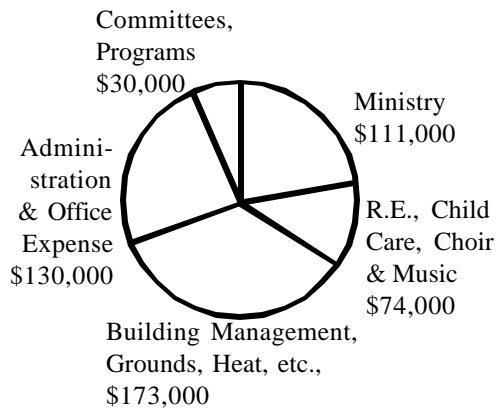
With 150 children enrolled in Sunday School and over 550 adult members, the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington is committed to serving a larger, more varied congregation than ever before.

This year we are pursuing our partnership with Spectrum and continuing our investment of \$100,000 in the Old North End, but are also extending our reach into the wider community, with interpreted services for the deaf and a presence on the Spiritual and Religious Life Council at UVM.

Why do we need a pledge drive?

It takes over \$1,000 each day to sustain our programs, maintain our building and pay our staff. Unlike many other non-profits that serve our community, we receive no funding from the government and no grants from United Way. We depend entirely on the generous support of members and friends. Your pledge of financial support will enable us to provide a community that promotes self-discovery and spiritual growth for all people regardless of beliefs, sexual orientation or race.

Total budget 2001/2002: \$518,000



Financial facts of life

Did you know?

- What we collect in the Canvass does not even pay our staff salaries or that the Sunday offering covers less than 2.5% of the budget.
- Our average pledge needs to be \$769 just to meet our payroll.

Your pledge can make a difference



Every pledge is important; it greatly influences the work we do, and our community:

- \$50 sends one youth to a District Leadership Conference
- \$150 hires Guest Musicians for Kwanzaa
- \$600 keeps us on the internet—www.uusociety.org
- \$750 tunes our organ and two pianos
- \$1000 pays for 30 Sundays of childcare
- \$2,000 will fund our share of JUMP, serving low income neighbors in downtown Burlington
- \$30,000 will bring our staff up to the Unitarian Universalist Association's salary guidelines

How much should you pledge?



Our goal is for people to pledge generously for their circumstances, reflecting the importance of our Society in their life and the community. We ask that you pledge your fair share according to the UUA guidelines shown in the following chart.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME	PERCENT	ANNUAL PLEDGE
\$20,000	1.5%	\$300
\$25,000	2.0%	\$500
\$30,000	2.5%	\$780
\$40,000	3.0%	\$1,200
\$50,000	3.5%	\$1,750
\$75,000	3.75%	\$2,812
\$100,000	4.00%	\$4,000
\$250,000	4.00%	\$10,000

These guidelines are sensitive to people's different financial circumstances and suggest that the greater your income the higher percent you pledge. This year we need to substantially increase the number of people who pledge at their fair share levels. Your pledge is confidential and any contribution will be appreciated—large or small.

How do you pledge?

- Send in your pledge form when you receive it in the mail.
- Visit a Canvass table at the Meetinghouse on Celebration Sunday (March 17) or any of the following three Sundays.
- Respond to the Canvass Phone Call.
- Stop by the Meetinghouse office during office hours.

In addition to your personal check, we are also accepting pledges via Mastercard/VISA. You may charge your pledge in one payment or with automatic monthly payment over the fiscal year. Or consider pledging with appreciated securities.

If you have any questions, please contact Debby Bergh at 985-3859 or DMBVT@AOL.COM.

Thank you! You are an integral part in building our community for tomorrow!