

APRIL 2009

Office hours: M & F 8-11:30am, T-Th 8am-3pm

Phone: (315) 386-2498

E-mail: uucanton@verizon.net

Web site: www.uucantonny.org

Co-Ministers: Wade Wheelock and Anne Marsh *Director of Religious Education:* Jan Hutslar

Deadline for next newsletter: Monday, April 20.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Worship services and children's religious education begin at 10:30 a.m.

April 5: "Briefcase of Thoughts" - Youth Group

In this moving service planned and led by our high school Youth Group, the youth will share reflections, music, stories, and readings that focus on some of the values that have influenced them. You're invited to bring a contribution of non-perishables for our monthly food pantry collection.

Greeters: Carol and Tom Pynchon; Bill Romey; Susan Powers

Social Hour: Diane Colbert; Walt Conley; Jan DeWaters and Stefan Grimberg

April 12: "A Once and Future Christianity" -- Wade Wheelock

On this Easter Sunday, a projection of a possible religion combining historical insights into the message of Jesus with modernizing reforms. What if such a Christianity, which already exists in many places, were to become widespread around the world? Anne will be preaching in Saranac Lake.

Greeters: Rajiv Narula; Anne Richey; Galen Pletcher

Social Hour: Robin Collen; Lois and Duncan Cutter; Paul Cutter

April 19: "The Religious Thought of the Aztecs" - John F. Schwaller, Ph.D., President of SUNY Potsdam and Professor of History

This service will focus on the highly sophisticated religion of the Aztecs (Nahuas) as practiced in Central Mexico at the time of the arrival of the Spanish in 1519. With music by the Handbell Choir.

Greeters: Eileen Raymond and Donna Smith-Raymond; Wil and Rebecca Rivers

Social Hour: Judy DeGraaff; Steve Farina; Joel Foisy and Gretchen Koehler

April 26: "View from a Tree" - Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock

On this weekend of Max's memorial service, one of his poems becomes a starting point for Earth Day reflections on climate change and care for our planet. *Our monthly Social Action Shared Offering will be taken for the UU Service Committee.*

Greeters: Jim Rudd; Jill and Doug Rubio; Saravanan

Social Hour: Rich Fennessey and Carmen Stuart Fennessey; Bob and Irene Gardner

IN PARTNERSHIP

We join so many others in mourning the death of Max Coots, our minister emeritus, who died on March 3. Max arrived in Canton to become the minister of this church in 1958. So for over 50 years, he has been a person of central importance in the life of this congregation, as well as someone known throughout the North Country for his varied civic-minded activities. Max retired as the minister in 1992 after 34 years and was named minister emeritus. In retirement he came to focus on his art work, which drew much admiration. He was active with his sculpting and other interests up to the last month of his life, and he died only a week after receiving the diagnosis of lymphoma. No one could ask for a fuller, richer life. But Max's death leaves an irreplaceable gap for all the rest of us. We especially commit ourselves to reaching out in support for Max's wife, Charlotte Ramsay, and the rest of his family. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, April 25, the exact time not yet determined.

There are hardly any members of this congregation anymore who preceded Max. But the historical accounts tell of a church with dangerously diminished numbers. Max brought the church back and helped guide it into being a thriving religious community, widely recognized and respected around the area, as was Max himself -- a gifted orator, poet, and social analyst. When he was no longer this church's minister, he, joined by Charlotte, remained a staunch supporter, generous with time, money, and a positive spirit. Max loved this church. He fostered a religious community infused with a generous good will, devoid of factions or competing egos, encouraging a diversity of views and kinds of people.

Our best tribute to Max will be to continue that kind of loving support for this church so it will remain a haven of mutual caring for all those drawn to our free religion, a beacon of liberal religious values, and a center of action for social justice and compassion in the wider world. Thank you, Max. We miss you. We'll all carry on together.

– Wade and Anne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the March Church Council meeting, we welcomed Kathy Wyckoff and Tom Pynchon, who respectively provided separate reports on the near future and recent past. Kathy dropped by to update Council on the work of the Transition Team (most of which you have and will continue to read about in their monthly column), and to present Council with the draft covenant for Anne and Wade's post-retirement participation in the life of the church. Council voted to adopt the covenant as written. (See full text on page 8 of newsletter.)

We also voted unanimously to support the Transition Team's recommendation for bestowing Emeriti status upon Anne and Wade. This honorary title is awarded for long-term meritorious service, and requires a vote of the congregation. According to the UU Ministers Association Guidelines, emeriti ministers encourage recognition of their new status through support of their successor, and there is an expectation that their successor will welcome the emeriti into the life of the congregation. Council's vote simply provided the green light allowing this recommendation to move forward to the congregation, which will vote on whether to confer emeritus status on Anne and Wade at a **meeting right after the service on May 3**. It would be wonderful to have a large turnout on the record for this vote.

Next, we heard from the Investment Committee Chair, Tom Pynchon, who provided an overview of the work and purview of the investment committee and an update on the church's investments. The committee decided last year to work more formally with a professional investment manager rather than bearing sole responsibility for investment decisions and buy/sell orders. After a competitive application process, the committee chose long-time church friend John Vose of Smith Barney in Potsdam. Although the value of the church's investments are down at present, Tom reminded us that we are well diversified and recommended that we not make any changes at this time. He did, however, appreciate Council's interest and agreed that more frequent updates for the congregation would help allay concerns. Look for his column elsewhere in this newsletter.

As we move into the spring, we can look forward to warmer weather, but that will pale in comparison to the heat we generate at the Chili Cook-off on April 4!! Stock up on alka-seltzer and show up with an appetite (and don't forget to bring your bowl). I'm planning on bringing an entirely decadent, but of course calorie-free, dessert. Remember, all proceeds will go towards a charity of Anne and Wade's choice. See you there!!

-- Margaret Harloe

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

It's a good thing that the days are getting longer because we sure have plenty to fill them with. I revel in the signs of life and vibrancy around me, including the noisy birdsong in the mornings, the early flowers pushing up through the ground and, of course, the busy active life of children and youth in our Religious Education program.

The 7th/8th grade class members are working on their interpretive brochure for the Grasse River Heritage Park, where they have spent many Sunday mornings. They are offering a tour and their brochure will make its debut on May 17th after church. Mark your calendar!

The 2nd-6th graders have been practicing Heart Talk these last few months, exploring the art of communicating from their hearts and identifying their feelings, needs and opinions. They will be switching gears in April, to look at the relationship we humans have with the world of nature. Children will be going outside most Sundays starting April 19, so have them wear outdoor clothes.

The Youth Group has been working very hard on both their worship service and the Youth Con (short for Conference) in May. I encourage you to come to their April 5 service where you will hear music, reflections, a story and readings that will give you a deeper insight into these amazing young people. As for their Con, there will be many volunteer opportunities to help them with Canton's first Youth Con. Stay tuned. Enjoy the busy chaos of spring!

-Jan

JOYS AND SORROWS

- We all mourn the death of our beloved Minister Emeritus, *Max Coots*, who died on March 3, and we hold his wife *Charlotte Ramsay* and the rest of his family in our hearts. Our collective grief at Max's death is deep, but so is our gratitude for his long and full life. We'll celebrate that life at a memorial service on April 25.
- We also send loving thoughts to *Joan Collins*, *George Yellott*, *Will and Ryan*, on the death of Joan's dad, William Collins, on March 17.
- Condolences, too, to the family of *Stan Holberg*, who died on March 8. A memorial service will be held at SLU's Herring-Cole hall on May 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- What a joy to hear *Caron Collins*' flute in her first performance since her accident. Kudos to Caron for her persistence, courage, and artistry.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!

- Thanks to *Stephen Ledoux and Nelly Case* for donating "Journeys," a sculpture by Max Coots, which is now in the Coots Library -- an appropriate spot, since it depicts the journeys our imaginations take through books.

- Thanks to *Ines Sanchez-Ferreira* for doing a great job coordinating the Caring Circle during Donna Smith-Raymond's illness.
- Several committee chairs are stepping down: *Carol Pynchon* from Social Action, *Valerie Ingram* from Worship, *Pete Wyckoff* from Stewardship, *Ruth Baltus* from Staff Relations, and *Judy Gibson* from Library. We are grateful beyond words for their years of service. And thanks also to the new chairs who will now lead these groups: *Tedra Cobb* (Social Action), *Galen Pletcher* (Worship), *Scott Shipley* (Stewardship), *Helen Hutchinson* (Staff Relations), and *Joan Kepes* (Library). Thank you all!
- Thanks to *Carol Pynchon*, *Donna Dilworth*, *Bill Romey* and *Rajiv Narula* for driving and chaperoning at the Ottawa Youth Con.
- Thanks to *Phil Collins* for sealing off the "mouse hole" in the kitchen.

COMMITTEE CHAIR GATHERING

On Tuesday evening, April 7, at 7 p.m., the Chairs of our UU Church committees will join with Church Council trustees to review activities completed or scheduled for this year and to plan work and events for the coming year. It will also be a time to review committee charges and determine membership needs. There will be elegant desserts and hot beverages for all. Contact Kim Bouchard at kim.bouchard@verizon.net or bouchaka@potSDam.edu, or 265-1078 for more information.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Below is an update on the church's current investment holdings, which make up the endowment, and a summary of the committee's recent investment work. The Investment Committee includes Tom Pynchon (chair), Stefan Grimberg, David Nelson, Wade Wheelock (Minister), Dick Morrow (Church Treasurer), Pat Glover (Chair, Budget and Finance Committee). A full report of the Investment Committee was presented to Church Council at their March meeting.

Our investments are required to be no more than 70% equities and no less than 30% fixed investments. We also have a goal of having at least 15% invested in socially responsible funds. Since May of 2008, our total endowment is down approximately 28%, which is not out of line with the investment world during the past twelve months. We continue to work with our investment advisor at Smith Barney in Potsdam to align our investments with current market conditions.

Total Investments for Endowment as of 2/28/2009:

Smith Barney Account:	\$202,814
UUA	\$ 22,931
SL County Housing	\$ 10,000
Micro Credit	\$ 5,000
Total	\$240,745

Socially Responsible Investments= 23%
Fixed Income = 45%

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at tpynchon@stlawu.edu. - Tom Pynchon

USHARE GEARING UP for Another Growing Season

As the weather warms and our thoughts turn to gardening, many of us have been busy preparing for what we hope to be another UShare season. UShare, our congregation's service project that addresses local food security issues, maintains 2 community gardens – one in Canton and another in Potsdam – whose sole purpose is to grow fresh, healthy produce for people who might not have access to such wholesome food. For each of the last four summers we have contributed roughly 2,000 pounds of produce to local food banks, neighborhood centers, and community dinners, and we hope that the 2009 season will again be so successful and fulfilling.

This important project relies on the volunteer efforts of a large portion of our church community, gardeners and non-gardeners alike. Over 140 volunteers, mostly from our church but also including students from SLU, SUNY Potsdam, and Clarkson, as well as Presbyterian Church and community members, form the UShare community. The bulk of our summer volunteers are needed mostly in the gardens – participating in scheduled work parties or as week-long garden adopters throughout the summer. If you are new to gardening, there is no need to hesitate – we have plenty of seasoned gardeners to pair you up with, and this is a wonderful way to grow friendship as well as your own gardening skills. We'll also need volunteers to provide food for work parties, to deliver produce to neighborhood centers, and to staff the Canton Farmers' Market Food Stamp EBT booth.

Look for UShare sign-up sheets in the social room after church beginning in April, where you'll also find a volunteer to answer any questions you might have about the project. Whether you'll be a newbie or a returning volunteer, we hope you'll sign up to help out this summer. You'll be rewarded with the warmth and satisfaction of knowing that you've helped to ease the pains of hunger in our

community. If you have any questions about UShare, please contact Dave Bradford (265-3426, dbradfor@twcny.rr.com) or Jan DeWaters (265-2234, jdewaters1@twcny.rr.com).

FARMERS' MARKET EBT

It's time to plan for our fourth season staffing the Food Stamp EBT booth at the Canton Farmers' Market from June-October. This project, which is part of our UShare program, is done in cooperation with GardenShare, and makes it possible for low-income folks to buy fresh produce with their Food Stamp cards. This summer, we'll again staff the booth on both Tuesdays and Fridays, in two shifts (8:30-11:30 and 11:30-2:30), so we need lots of volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer or learn more, let Anne or Wade know. This is a great way for those whose thumbs are not green to help with UShare!

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE PLANNING MEETING

The SAC is inviting members of the congregation to help us plan our next year's goals and activities. We are hosting an after-church meeting on April 26th from 12:30pm to 2pm in the Romer Room. It will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass. We will field three questions:

1. What is going well, and what does the Church like about our work?
2. How could we improve what we are currently doing?
3. What (this is the dream part) would the Church like the Social Action Committee to do in the future?

We will eat and work and share our ideas and dreams. If you have questions, call Tedra Cobb at 386-4928.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Membership Committee will hold their annual pancake breakfast for everyone before church on Sunday, April 5. We'll be serving pancakes and sausages, fruit toppings, maple syrup, and beverages from 9- 10 a.m. All are welcome.

JOINING THE CHURCH

If you feel you have found a religious home here, we invite you to take the step of signing the Membership Book and becoming an official church member. By "signing the book" you indicate a deepening commitment to this congregation and its values, and a desire to contribute some of your time, talent, and treasure to help us shape our vision and become the beloved community we strive to be. If you have questions about membership, or would like to join the church, feel free to talk with Co-Ministers Anne and Wade, or our President, Margaret Harloe. We hope to have a welcome to new members as part of an April service.

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is the central tenet of traditional Christianity. But what about Unitarian Universalists? What does Easter mean for us -- those who are UU Christians and those who are not? All are welcome as the Exploring Christianity group shares ideas on Easter and resurrection after church on April 5 at noon, in the Upstairs Room.

CHURCH TIME-LINE QUIZ

So you think you know a lot about this church. How about its history? Join Wade after church in the Romer Room on April 12 for a short quiz and a refresher -- or introduction -- to some of the highlights, from founding to today, along the time-line for the First Universalist Society in the Town of Canton (our official name).

GOD ON TRIAL

We commemorate Yom ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, with a showing of the film "God on Trial" after church on Sunday, April 19, on the lower level, from 12-2. In this powerful play, first broadcast on PBS, Jewish prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp debate the existence and nature of God in the context of the evil that surrounds them. They put God on trial and ask the age-old question: Why does God allow horrible things to happen? We'll have snacks, and all are welcome to view and discuss.

OLYMPIA BROWN SOCIETY PLANNED GIVING PRESENTATION

An informal discussion on the Olympia Brown Society and ways to support the church through planned gifts will take place on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 pm at the church. Tom Pynchon will lead the session.

The Olympia Brown Society honors those individuals who have placed the church in their estate plans. This is usually done by leaving a bequest to the church but there are other ways such as naming the church as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, or through a planned gift such as a charitable gift annuity. During these difficult financial times, the popular charitable gift annuity can

provide a fixed payment for a donor's lifetime, which provides income security. Last year three church members set up this type of gift.

Past information programs have helped church members think through their charitable giving plans for the church. There is no obligation and all information shared is confidential. A sign-up sheet for the Tuesday, April 21, discussion will be on the kiosk. Please call Tom at 323-3714 if you have questions.

CHILI COOK-OFF REMINDER!

Don't miss the revival of the Chili Cook-off, Saturday April 4th starting at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the event will be contributed to the UU Service Committee, particularly for their "Rights in Humanitarian Crises." (See article below.)

The suggested donation is \$3 per person and \$10 for a family, and there will be jars so you can tip your favorite cook. Tips will be added to the kitty. In an effort to "green up" the event we're asking people to bring their own bowl for sampling. Voting will determine the top three chili winners. The first place winner will be the envy of the North Country winning a uniquely UU prize of Todd Moe's voice on your answering machine. Sign-up sheets are on the kiosk for chili cooks and bakers willing to make a variety of desserts and for volunteers to bring card tables. For more information or for questions, call Tedra 386-4928.

UUSC AND CHILI COOK-OFF

The Transition Team gave us the opportunity to choose the recipient of the proceeds of the April 4 Chili Cook-off, and the Social Action Committee decided to make "our" charity the recipient of the April 26 Shared Offering as well. We are grateful to both groups for this opportunity and have chosen the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), an organization close to our hearts.

The UUSC program we'd like to highlight is called "Rights in Humanitarian Crises." The UUSC explains: "In disasters and wars, people are not all affected the same way. Their race, gender, class, religion, political beliefs, ethnicity, and immigrant status all deeply influence how they will access the aid provided and whether they will be able to rebuild their lives the way they were. People who are marginalized within a society before an earthquake hits or a war begins will find themselves even further down the ladder after the crisis. The Rights in Humanitarian Crises unit runs both a short-term emergency program that responds to natural disasters, and a long-term program that focuses on the vulnerable populations in intractable conflicts and complex humanitarian emergencies."

An example of the latter is the aftermath of the political violence in Kenya in 2007, when over 600,000 people were displaced from their homes. Since then, they and their plight have fallen from the headlines. However, through our own church's involvement with the Red Rose School in Nairobi, we know that many families of children connected to that school continue to be affected by this situation. This UUSC program works with local partners to find and assist these "invisible" people whose lives have not been put back together yet.

So we hope you will join us on April 4th for the Chili Cook-off, which will be great fun for all *and* raise money for a vital UUSC program that can directly aid some of the people in Kenya with whom we have formed an important bond, as well as many others around the world. --*Anne and Wade*

SOCIAL ACTION AWARD

Each year our church recognizes an individual who is making a difference in our community with an award established in memory of Rachel Somers Grant. The Social Action Committee is now seeking nominations for the 2009 award.

Rachel Somers Grant was a teacher and activist who lived in Canton from 1977 until her death in 1990. The Social Action Award given in her name honors people who work, as Rachel did, to make ours a more humane and progressive community. Recent recipients of the award have included Carol Neubert, an educator and advocate for gay and lesbian rights, and the late Ruth Beebe, a steadfast community activist who worked on issues related to education, the environment, the war in Iraq. Nominations for the 2009 Rachel Somers Grant Award, which will be presented in June, should be submitted to the church office. You may email uucanton@verizon.net attn: SAC Award Nominations. *Nominations should be made no later than Monday, April 20.*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE CAN HELP!

Since Committee chairs, both experienced and not, need to know what the Outreach Committee can and cannot do for your committee, perhaps this description will help. The Outreach Committee mission is:

- To promote the church through publicity in various media to reach a broad diversity of people and inform them about Unitarian Universalist values through radio spots, advertisements in newspapers, regional guides, orchestra programs and other programs related to the performing arts, and through information posted on the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton website.
- To collaborate with other committees of the church to promote and publicize events sponsored by such committees, and to serve as a central clearing house for all church publicity.

What that means for you is: if your committee is sponsoring an event that would be of interest to the

general public, or an event that is being offered to the general public, we can help. Send us any digital photos you have (with names and permission to use, please) and a rough draft of all the information you wish to see included, and we will edit it and distribute it to the local media. Allow 15 days lead time before the event. Submissions may be sent to Betsy Northrop at betsynorthrop1@verizon.net.

LEANING AGAINST THE WIND

During his 34 years as minister of our church, Max Coots delivered more than 1,400 sermons. In 1992, a committee of church members chose 58 of these sermons to be published in a book entitled *Leaning Against the Wind*. To quote Alfred Romer from the book's forward, "Each of these is a sermon which someone considered special. Each is a sermon which we still thought special after reading and re-reading."

The last printing of 500 copies of *Leaning Against the Wind* was in 1994. This special collection is now out of print and difficult to find. An effort to initiate a fourth printing is currently underway with plans for it to be available by late summer.

Anne Marsh described Max's sermons as "wonderfully poetic and prophetic," and went on to say, "Whether speaking of creationism, blackberries, plastic radish bags, or visiting evangelists (to mention just a few of my favorites), Max has a gift of revealing the extra in the ordinary, the super in the natural."

In addition to the book, a CD recording of Max reading 12 of these sermons was made in 2000. Watch for more information and opportunities to reserve a copy of the book, CD, or both.

SERMONS AND MORE BY EMAIL

For many years, we've mailed sermons to folks who are housebound or not able to get to church often. We'll continue to offer that service. We can also send sermons via email to any who would like to have them. Just email or call the church office, and we'll put you on the e-sermons list. You may also elect to receive this newsletter electronically and/or to receive our weekly e-news.

FROM THE COOTS LIBRARY

Since Judy Gibson is on the Settled Minister Search Committee, I have agreed to chair the Library Committee during its tenure. Fortunately, Judy will still be on the committee and able to offer her enthusiasm and experience.

Several of you have read Marnie Reed Crowell's *Greener Pastures* since our library obtained a copy. Others remember the book from the days when the Crowells lived on a farm in Pierrepont. With retirement Ken and Marnie moved to Deer Isle in Maine where Marnie continues her writing. She has now published a book of poetry, *Shared Light on Penobscot Bay*, with photographs by Ann Flewelling. Perhaps because our family spent a year on Islesboro, across the bay from Deer Isle, I find the poems and photographs such a complete whole that I can't imagine one without the other. Of course I can't demonstrate that in the newsletter, but you can see for yourself by checking out this book. Since we lived on Islesboro "off season," the winter scenes and poems were my favorites. "Dawn Eagle" starts with these lines:

Dawn eagle glides dark above the spruce
at just enough daybreak
to throw cloud shadows
across the bay,
edged at island tide lines
with traces of snow.

- Joan Kepes

P.S. You can now access the online database of the holdings of our Coots Library through our church website. Click on UU Links and then on Coots Adult Library Collection or Coots Children's Library Collection.

I JUST READ...

Back in May, when I hit a spiritual rough spot, a friend put a copy of Anne Lamott's *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* in my hands and told me I might find it helpful. I had long been aware of Lamott's spiritual writings and the fact that she is a Christian, which was enough to put me off investigating further, having parted with my own Christian upbringing long ago. But I had thoroughly enjoyed the parts of her *Bird By Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* I had read. So I opened the book and started to read. I was glad I did.

Traveling Mercies opens with a 53-page section entitled "Overture: Lily Pads" that begins: "My coming to faith did not start with a leap but rather a series of staggers from what seemed like one safe place to another....In this way I moved across the swamp of doubt and fear....Each step brought me closer to the verdant pad of faith on which I somehow stay afloat today." Brought up in a home that was "religion-less" if not outright anti-religion and anti-God in which she and her brothers "were raised to believe in books and music and nature" while their parents worked for liberal causes and

indulged in excesses of alcohol, tobacco and food, she was drawn to the religious traditions of her childhood friends and college roommates. Her safe places included Catholicism, Christian Science and Judaism by turns.

Eventually her own problems with alcoholism, drugs and relationships brought her to a spiritual crisis through which she was drawn to Christianity and found her spiritual home at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Marin City, California, a predominantly African-American congregation. (Lamott is white.) Throughout the remainder of the book she writes with delightful candor and humor about her life in general and her spiritual life in particular. Her political and social views are liberal and she maintains close relationships with a great diversity of people including people pursuing very different spiritual and religious lives.

I was so taken with Lamott's book that I devoured her other spiritual writings in close succession last summer: *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* and *Grace Eventually*. I also read *Operating Instructions: Notes on My Son's First Year* which is a delightful blending of memoir and spiritual writing as well. All highly recommended, perhaps especially if you are a UU exploring Christianity, but even if you are not. - Jean A. Thompson

AND I JUST READ...

It all began with one question: What would you say if you knew you were going to die and had a chance to sum up everything that was most important to you? That's the question Randy Pausch, a charismatic young college professor, chronicled in his remarkable book, *The Last Lecture*. Pausch was a computer sciences professor at Carnegie Mellon University. For him though, the question wasn't hypothetical.

Pausch, a husband and father of three small children, had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer -- and given six months to live. But in his book, he stresses the importance of living the life he had always dreamed of instead of concentrating on impending death. There isn't a lot of about faith or religion in the book. I read it thinking that Pausch sounded a lot like a UU. And it turns out he first came to this faith as a member of the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh. In an interview with the UUA website, Pausch said, "I was raised Presbyterian and attended church regularly until I was about 17. I like the fact that [Unitarian Universalism] appeals to reason and thought more than dogma." Pausch died last July at age 47. Millions of people have downloaded his last lecture on Youtube: (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5_MqicxSo) The book is in the church library. I highly recommend both. And, as a devoted "Star Trek" fan (so was Randy Pausch), I learned via Wikipedia that Pausch has a small role in the latest Star Trek movie due out this May. - Todd Moe

WITH GRATITUDE FROM DONNA AND EILEEN

Words cannot express how grateful we are for all the love, caring, and support we have received from our church community during Donna's illness, but words are all we have. To the folks who entertained and cared for Sieonna while Donna was in the ICU, to others who drove to Burlington or Ogdensburg to visit Donna, take Eileen out to dinner and dispense hugs all around, to the good fairies who shoveled our driveway, to the ever-ready cooks with delicious and healthful meals, to the visitors during Donna's first few weeks at home, to the reliable drivers to bring her safely home from rehab, to the medical folks in our church who provided care and advice throughout this difficult time ... and to everyone who held us in your thoughts and hearts during the past 3 months, we send our heartfelt thanks. The love that surrounded us is no doubt a major part of Donna's near miraculous recovery. Please know we send that love right back to each of you.

Love, Donna and Eileen

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

On Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 7 p.m., at the Old Meetinghouse Museum, East DeKalb, David A. Anderson will present a one-man show, "A Time In the Life of Frederick Douglass and Shields Green." In October 1859, Douglass confronts a crisis: there is a warrant for his arrest, and friend and ally John Brown has been captured. Also in custody is Shields Green, who until recruited by Brown for the raid on the Harpers Ferry arsenal, helped at the Underground Railroad station at Douglass' home. Dialog shifts between Douglass and Green and reveals their perspectives on slavery. The actor will also step out of character to talk with the audience about these historic figures, the laws they challenged, and the motives that led to these challenges. For more information, contact Bryan Thompson.

THE WIDER UU WORLD

- The St. Lawrence District Annual Assembly will be held in Albany on April 24-25. The theme is "Building the Beloved Community," and the keynote speaker is the Rev. Tom Owen-Towle. Flyers and registration forms are at the back of the sanctuary.
- The Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly will be held in Salt Lake City June 24-28. GA is an amazing experience – thousands of UUs gathering together for worship, workshops, business, and fellowship. This year, we'll elect a new UUA President as well. Info

at [uua.org/events/general assembly](http://uua.org/events/general-assembly).

COVENANT WITH ANNE AND WADE

At its March 4 meeting, Church Council approved a covenant to guide the relationship between our co-ministers and the congregation after their retirement. This covenant is in keeping with the guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and also draws on the 1992 covenant between Max Coots and the congregation. The full text is as follows:

When Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock retire from their co-ministry at the UU Church of Canton (UUCC) at the end of July 2009, their relationship with the congregation will change in significant ways, both because of the nature of ministry in general and the professional guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association in particular. This changed relationship will be the basis of a new covenant between the retired ministers and the congregation.

Anne and Wade have expressed their intention to stay in the community after retirement and their desire to become part of the congregation of this church. They have made it clear that they hope to establish an open, candid and generous collegial relationship with their successors and intend to do all they can to allow their new colleagues to assume the mantle of ministry in the eyes of the congregation.

The congregation is deeply grateful for the many years of exceptional service, leadership, and care provided by Anne and Wade and wants to keep them as ministers emeriti, parishioners, and friends. The church is also fully committed to a smooth transition to new ministerial leadership and will be generous in its welcome and support of the new minister/s.

The tenets of this covenant will serve as guidelines for the participation of the retired ministers in the life of our church. The retiring ministers plan to enter into discussions with their successor ministers to arrive at similar, mutually agreed upon covenants. The terms of the covenant are as follows:

1. The ministers emeriti will not take, nor will they be asked to take, any leadership roles in the congregation. They expect to participate in church life only in very limited ways during the first few years of retirement. Within a few years they hope to be ordinary in-the-pew congregants.
2. The retired ministers will not offer or perform ministerial services for members and friends of the UUCC, or people in the wider community served by the UUCC, except with the permission of, and ordinarily only by the express invitation of, their successor colleagues. Those ministerial services include (but are not limited to) rites of passage (child dedications, weddings, and memorial services), counseling, and pastoral visits. If they are invited by their successor colleagues to participate in a rite of passage, they prefer their role to be a minor one. Members of the congregation are expected to seek the services of the new minister for rites of passage, counseling and pastoral visits. It is recognized that some congregants may remain emotionally and professionally committed to the retired ministers for a time; however, the retired ministers will make clear to these individuals their altered position within the church and will encourage them to seek the services of the new minister(s).
3. At the request of their successor ministers, the retired ministers will be glad to be a source of information and/or confidential counsel with no presumption that their counsel be used or followed.
4. In order to ease the transition to new ministry in Canton, the retired ministers plan to continue as the part-time consulting ministers for the Adirondack UU Community in Saranac Lake during the first few years of their retirement. In that role, they will not encourage any members of UUCC to seek out their ministerial services in the Saranac Lake region.
5. The retired ministers will neither listen to nor volunteer criticisms of their interim or settled colleagues. Concerns should be presented directly to the new minister or to the appropriate committees or officers of the congregation. In the unlikely event that intervention from beyond the congregation is needed, first the Good Offices Person (of the local UU Ministers Association chapter) should be consulted; and then, if necessary, the District Executive.
6. The scale of fees for professional services applies to the work of ministers emeriti.