

January 2006

Cobblestone News

Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland/ 607-753-0020

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Jan. 4 –
7 pm – Vespers

Sunday, Jan. 8 –
Barbara E. Blom
9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service

Sunday, Jan. 15 –
9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service:
“Buddhism”, Rev. Marcia
Curtis

Sunday, Jan. 22 –
Barbara E. Blom
9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service.
Noon – Welcome brunch
*Membership Sunday. If
you are interested in
joining, please contact a
member of the Board or
Barb Blom.*

Tuesday, Jan. 24 –
7 pm - Board Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 28 –
6 pm – Kick-off dinner for
Canvass. Food and
entertainment provided.

Sunday, Jan. 29 –
9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service. Rev. Kay
Lindauer

Saturday, Feb. 4 –
9am - 3 pm: Retreat at
Stella Maris Retreat Center
in Skaneateles.

From Near and Afar

Rev. Timothy Hume Behrendt

STILL WINTER

Still winter, cold winter, white
winter icy winter, wind-tossed
winter,

My inner reaches respond to your
diverse countenances in many
ways.

In stillness I see and feel the peace
of acceptance of receiving what
comes without deep regret.

In cold I see and feel the blessing of
warm clothes and hearth and gold-
lit home.

In whiteness I see and feel the soft
purity and reverent oneness of all
that is around me.

In ice I see and feel the polished
branches “prisming” morning light
in rainbow hues as winter’s
flowers.

In wind I see and feel the waves of
flakes, showering the earth with
diamond dust.

Still winter, cold winter, white
winter, icy winter, wind-tossed
winter,

I welcome you as another face
of the majestic mystery that
bathes my being.

315-826-7405

Greetings Friends and Members,

John Churchill, Moderator

It is still my contention
that there is a spiritual hunger
in our culture and a very real
need in Cortland for a liberal
religious viewpoint- I call it
our “Liberal Ministry”. In
recent months, with the help
of our intern minister, Barbara
Blom, we have made great
strides in providing
opportunities for spiritual
growth for children and adults
by developing and nurturing
study groups, service groups,
and social groups. These
opportunities have not only
helped us grow as a
congregation, but developed
socially, intellectually, and
spiritually as individuals.

We are not just entering a new
year-we are entering a new
era in the life of the Unitarian
Universalist Church of
Cortland. We still have a

Sunday, Feb. 5 –

Barb Blom
9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service

Wednesday, Feb. 8-

7 pm - Vespers

Sunday, Feb. 12 –

9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service: Joyce Morgan, Poetry

Sunday, Feb. 19 –

Barb Blom
9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service

Sunday, Feb. 26 –

9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service: John Churchill

Tuesday, Feb. 28 –

7 pm – Board meeting

Sunday, March 5 –

Barb Blom
9:00 – Check-in
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service
Bring a Friend Sunday.

*A new life begins for us
with*

every second.

*Let us go forward
joyously to meet it.*

*We must press on,
whether we*

*will or no,
and we shall walk
better with*

*our eyes before us
than with them ever
cast behind.*

Jerome K. Jerome

long way to go; but, with your continued participation in activities of the church, including the retreat, we will continue to grow as a congregation and address the spiritual hunger in our community.

I feel quite strongly that we are better than we used to be, but you “ain’t seen nothing yet!”

Please have a healthy and fulfilling NEW YEAR!

John

An Update on What’s Going on in the Church

Barb Blom, Intern Minister

We have been together now for four months and it is nice to see so many of you in church on Sundays! It is so nice to hear from newcomers how welcoming everyone is and how comfortable they feel when they walk in and join us for coffee. And, it is so nice to have so many of you participating in at least one committee. I am enjoying myself and hope all of you are as well! Here is a report of all the activities that have been happening at the UU Church of Cortland that so many of you have been participating in and putting together!

The **Religious Education Committee** is busy planning a program for the spring. We have an average of seventeen children on Sunday mornings. Anyone who would like to spend a morning with the children in our Religious Education program should contact Paul Griffin. It is great fun being with the children! They are a wonderful group!

The **Membership and Publicity Committee** has met and come up with many ideas to make our liberal religion more visible in the Cortland and Homer communities. We are in the process of planning some talks and panel discussions on controversial subjects, and we are hoping to encourage musical events in our wonderfully acoustically sound sanctuary. There will be a **New Member Ceremony on January 22 followed by a New to UU group** to explain Unitarian Universalism and our history. Everyone is welcome. If you are a newcomer and interested in officially joining our community, please contact me.

The **Programming Committee** has been busy planning Sunday morning celebrations and forums. We are also planning a **retreat on February 4** in conjunction with the Pledge and Finance Committee. Our Sunday morning forums have been going quite well. We have had many wonderful discussions on various subjects and are always looking for

HOW TO WRITE FOR RELIEF

“Ask most of us to write and we freeze,” says consultant and seminar leader Ina Alberts. In her book, *Write Your Self Well*, Alberts shows how to use a private journal to promote healing. Among her tips:

*Write for at least 20 minutes a day on 4 consecutive days. That’s what has worked in clinical trials.

*Focus on what’s been bothering you. Express your deepest thoughts and feelings, both positive and negative. Ask what difference it has made in your life.

*Write continuously, without regard for spelling or grammar. Don’t edit yourself.

*Write about the same issue several times in order to gain more understanding and view the situation from different perspectives.

*When you stop writing for the day, take time to reflect on what you’ve

someone new to introduce a topic for discussion. Contact John Ogden (756-4580) if you would like to lead a forum or if you know of someone who might like to.

The **Pledge and Finance Committee** has been putting together **our pledge drive** as the congregation must prepare for the future. Many decisions will have to be made in the next few months, most importantly, do you want to call a settled minister next year. We hope all of you participate in our upcoming dinners and retreat!

The **Intern Minister Committee** has been working with me, offering suggestions on the celebration and my preaching. Please feel free to offer suggestions or comments to anyone on the committee or to me if you feel comfortable.

The **Building and Grounds Committee** has met and there is much to be done to preserve this wonderful old church, but it will take commitment from all of you. This is something to be discussed as you plan for the future.

The **Constitution Committee** will be convening soon to begin the arduous process of revising the constitution. Anyone who is interested or has had experience in this kind of work is welcome to join us.

The **Social Justice Committee** has been visiting the Ithaca UU Church to gather ideas on how to organize. We are planning some activities for the next year and will keep you posted.

The **Board of Trustees** has been working hard to support our programming and new energy. Please check the minutes posted in the Fellowship Hall.

The **“Building Your Own Theology”** has nine people in it. We have been having a wonderful time and decided to extend the class from five weeks to nine. In the spring, we will start **Small Group Ministry**. These are small groups of people who meet once or twice a month to discuss various subjects of spirituality, transformation, and life experiences. Once the groups are formed, they will be closed to new comers for six months. We will be talking more about this in January.

We are beginning a new year and a new phase in our time together. I am open to suggestions in what we can do or I can do to make the church a meaningful part of your life! Please feel free to contact me any time at 277-8501 or barbeblom@yahoo.com. I am also available during Check-In Time on Sunday mornings at 9 am and after the Sunday celebration.

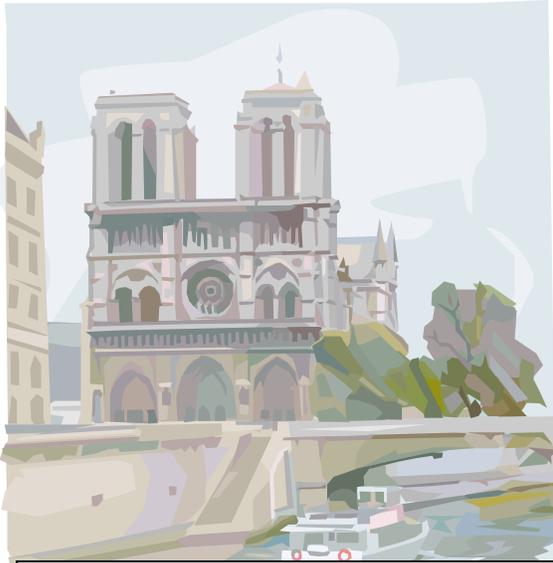
Happy New Year and Peace, Shalom and May It Be So!

Barb

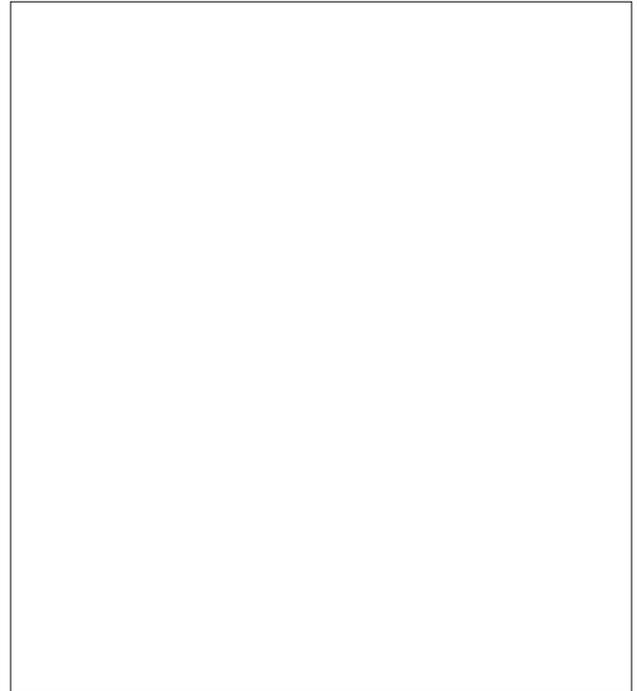


DO WHAT YOU CAN, WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, WHERE YOU ARE.

Theodore Roosevelt



*Chris and John Ogden,
Newsletter Editors*



Committees

If you would like to join a committee or learn more about it, please contact the convener.

Membership and Publicity
Chris Ogden (756-4580)

Finance and Pledge
(open)

Constitution
(open)

Programming
John Ogden (756-4580)

Buildings and Grounds
Jim Pelton (753-9112)

Children's RE
Paul Griffin (753-3192)

Social Justice
Jean Whitman (753-8386)

Pledge Drive Schedule

Saturday, Jan. 28: Kick-off dinner

Saturday, Feb. 4: Retreat at Stella Maris

Weekend of Feb. 11: Small group dinners

Weekend of Feb. 18: Small group dinners

Weekend of Feb. 25: Small group dinners

Sunday, March 12: Pledge Card Sunday

The results of our canvass will help us decide what we can do in the 2006-2007 church year.

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
CORTLAND

Cortland, NY 13045

PHONE:
607-753-0020



*Congregation active
since 1813
Building dedicated
in 1837*