

The

SOS SAVE OUR SANCTUARY

Special Edition
August 24, 2010

UNIGRAM

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF MUNCIE

The Reverend Thomas Perchlik, M. Div.
Minister

Nadine Tringali
Director of Religious Education

SOS EVENTS Calendar

~ August 29th ~

Kick-off for the SAVE OUR
SANCTUARY CAMPAIGN

- ⊕ Lynn Sousa, introduces the campaign
- ⊕ Video developed by the publicity committee

~ August 30th ~

Canvassing Begins and Runs
to September 19th

- ⊕ Say yes to a visit with your canvasser and support our capital campaign

~ Sept. 5th ~

- ⊕ Testimonial by John Taylor

~ Sept. 12th ~

- ⊕ Testimonial by Lisa Kuriscak

~ Sept. 19th ~

SOS Celebration Lunch

- ⊕ Testimonial by Caroline Curlin

SOS Celebration Lunch

Provided by the Third Sunday
Lunch Group & Events Cmte

~ Menu ~

Ham 'n Beans or Vegetarian
Beans

Cornbread / Raw Vegetables
Dessert

Taking Time to Make a Commitment

by Eleanor Johnson, SOS Campaign Chair
President-Elect of the Board of Trustees

I am devoting time to chair our church Save Our Sanctuary Capital Campaign because our church is important to me and my family. It has offered us open arms when we moved to Muncie fourteen years ago. It has been here for us and others when we've needed a supportive community. We have a long tradition of accepting people for who they are and not what some dogma says they should be and our building is the home where an individual or a family can find a loving community.

This is why it is important for me to commit time and money to the needs of the church building. Can you do the same? Deciding how much to give to fund our church future is a very personal decision. To help you do so, please think about these questions.

"We have a long tradition of accepting people for who they are and not what some dogma says they should be and our building is the home where an individual or a family can find a loving community."

⊕ *How important has our church community been to your life and those of your friends and loved ones?*

⊕ *How committed are you to preserving, protecting, and improving our church community as part of your legacy to the hundreds of spiritual and intellectual seekers who will come to this special place over the next fifty years?*

⊕ *What is your financial capacity to give to the campaign over the next 3 tax years?*

Once you have answered these questions, we are confident that you will make a substantial gift — a gift that makes you feel you have given your fair share to secure the future of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie for the generations to come.

There are many ways to fund your financial commitment for the Capital Campaign. Many people use money from savings or liquidated assets to fulfill their philanthropic commitments to organizations they love and support. Such donations qualify as charitable deductions while avoiding capital gains income.
(Eleanor's article continued inside)



What is a Canvas?

by Linda Gregory

The simple explanation is that a member formally, face-to-face, asks another member or friend of the congregation for a monetary donation to the church, or in this case, to the Save Our Sanctuary campaign.

To put it in another light, this canvas will be an opportunity for people to put their money where their hearts are and to pay for emergency, mandatory building repairs. These face-to-face meetings will be initiated by the volunteer canvassers and take place between Aug. 29th and Sept. 19th.

Canvassers will have a suggested amount to request from the members and friends on their list. That amount is two-thirds of the 2010-11 pledge. Included in their materials will be a breakdown of that amount in annual, quarterly, monthly, and weekly amounts. Sometimes, it's easier to plug one of those amounts into your budget, rather than a lump sum.

The important thing to remember about this canvassing process is that it's a chance for us to be generous with our gifts, a chance to talk about our UU faith, and a chance to step up when our congregation needs us.



SOS: An Unexpected Opportunity

by Lynn Sousa, Board President

At first thought, the need to Save Our Sanctuary is a daunting duty that has fallen upon us. But witnessing the creative and energetic efforts of the many people working to make the SOS Campaign successful, and the genuine concern and commitment voiced by other members and friends, makes it clear we are in the midst of an opportunity. The opportunity to strengthen a beautiful and sacred structure. The opportunity, as we work with each other, to nurture our church community so it can provide love and sanctuary and beauty and courage to young and old, now and in the future.

"The opportunity to strengthen a beautiful and sacred structure."

During this campaign, whether you are asking or being asked for a commitment of money, please be kind and generous and caring of each other and our varied circumstances. And be generous and caring of this beautiful church building and community we have come to love so much.

Thank you, Lynn

Words From The Woods

by Rev. Thomas Perchlik

A couple of years ago local Muslims and Jews decided to get together and affirm what they held in common, including shared religious ideas and their common desire for the end to armed violence in the Middle East. They chose our building to be the place of their first dinner together because everyone knows this is not only a beautiful place, but one of tolerance, respect and

"...everyone knows this is not only a beautiful place, but one of tolerance, respect and understanding."

understanding. This building is a vital expression of who and what we are and a home of deep peace. The Church itself is not a building and our religion is a way of life, determined by how we live, how we spend our money, and what we are willing to stand for in the world. And yet our building is often the primary icon of what we are and what we want to nurture in Muncie, Delaware County and everywhere. We love our

church building because of its beauty and aesthetics and we want to preserve that, but the *Save our Sanctuary Campaign* is, not just about preservation.

To pledge to a three year campaign is an expression of confidence in the importance and future of this congregation. These repairs and improvements will allow for another forty or fifty years of liberal religion in general, and Unitarian Universalism in specific, to thrive and transform human lives in this entire region. In future days we might create enduring programs for people in New Castle, or Anderson, Hartford City or Marion, but this building will remain the hub of what we do. The internet and our website allow our vision and hope to reach people who might never come to our sanctuary in the woods, but the building is where much website content is created. In the end this church is not just a house of worship, but a home for our spirits; a place where reason and compassion are born and grow. As the song says, **"Come to the church in the wildwood, Oh, come to the church in the dale, No spot is so dear to my childhood, As the little brown church in the vale."** By preserving and enhancing our sanctuary we invite all to find in their lives a place of reason, peace and love. – *Peace, Thomas*



You've seen the "SOS"...
But from what?
How?



The critters and the elements have damaged our church home as it has aged. We must seal the building from both, replace the mansard roof shingles, and repair damage to structural supports, soffits, and the woodwork. *Take a moment on Sunday to look at the pictures of damage on display in the sanctuary.* The building cannot survive if we do not attend to these repairs.

Repairing our sanctuary will take money. Lynn Sousa, our new president, has issued a call to action to all of us to participate in the Save Our Sanctuary (SOS) Capital Campaign that will begin on Sunday, August 29th. The campaign will be short, Aug 29th – Sept. 19th, but the effects will maintain our sacred space for future generations.

About 40 church members will canvass our church community in a face-to-face campaign during that three weeks. Before your canvasser calls, consider what the church means to you. What can you commit to Save Our Sanctuary?

If each of us pledged 2/3 of our current year's pledge in payments spread over 3 years beginning this year on December 31st, we would meet our goal of \$150,000.

Our beautiful church in the woods serves as the chalice to the flame of our vital church community. It is up to us to maintain both the chalice and the flame. Think about what you can commit to Save Our Sanctuary.

Be prepared to make your commitment when your canvasser calls, August 29th to September 19th.

– Linda Hanson, SOS Publicity Committee

(Eleanor's article cont. from pg. 1)

People with more limited assets may find different ways to be part of the campaign, simply dining out less often can help save money for making a modest contribution. Everyone's circumstances are different and only you can decide is right for you but many imaginative ideas have been used by donors in capital campaigns in the past.

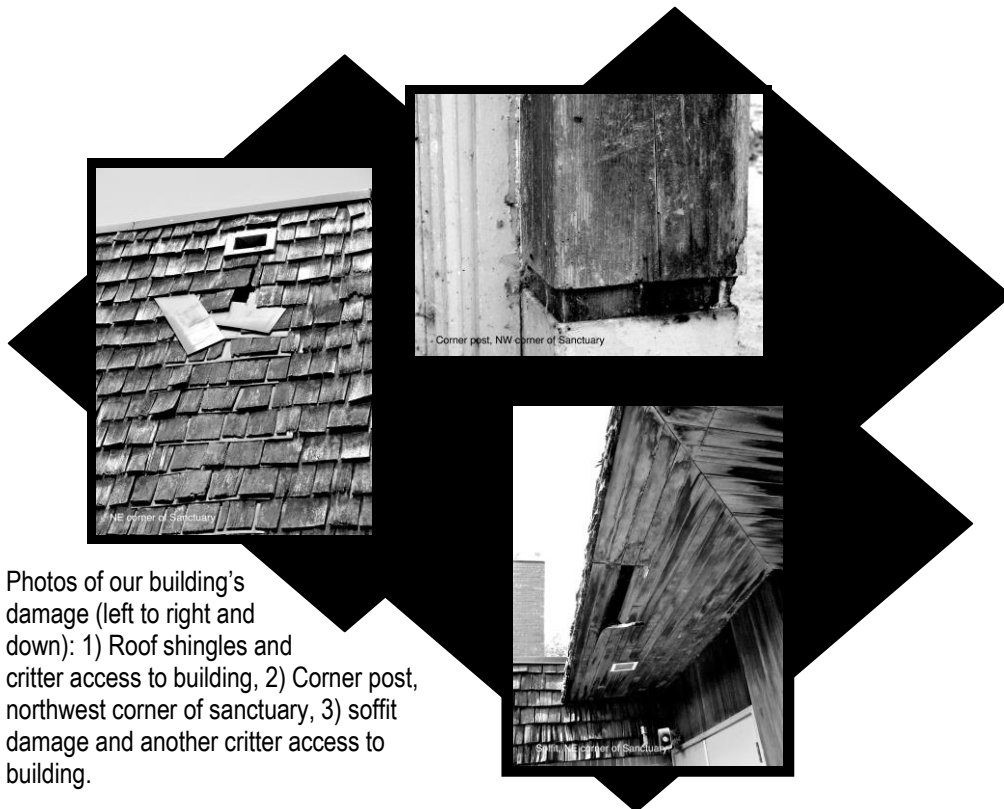
Here are a few ideas for creative giving:

Combine giving with other UU principles. Conserve energy by switching off the lights and TV and other conservation measures and save some money for the capital campaign!

- ⊕ **Have more potlucks and eat out less.**
- ⊕ **Make it a family project. Encourage youth to do jobs around the house and let them earn money to donate.**
- ⊕ **Keep that old car a year longer and donate the payments to the campaign.**
- ⊕ **Sell something on eBay, or donate proceeds from hobbies.**
- ⊕ **Insurance: Whole life or any life insurance policy with a cash value can be donated.**
- ⊕ **Donating or renting a seldom-used vehicle, rental property, or vacation home may be a good option.**
- ⊕ **Selling old antiques or jewelry**

Let your imagination go!

Saving a dollar a day is a \$1,095 pledge!



Photos of our building's damage (left to right and down): 1) Roof shingles and critter access to building, 2) Corner post, northwest corner of sanctuary, 3) soffit damage and another critter access to building.



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Church of Muncie**

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in the Muncie Community**

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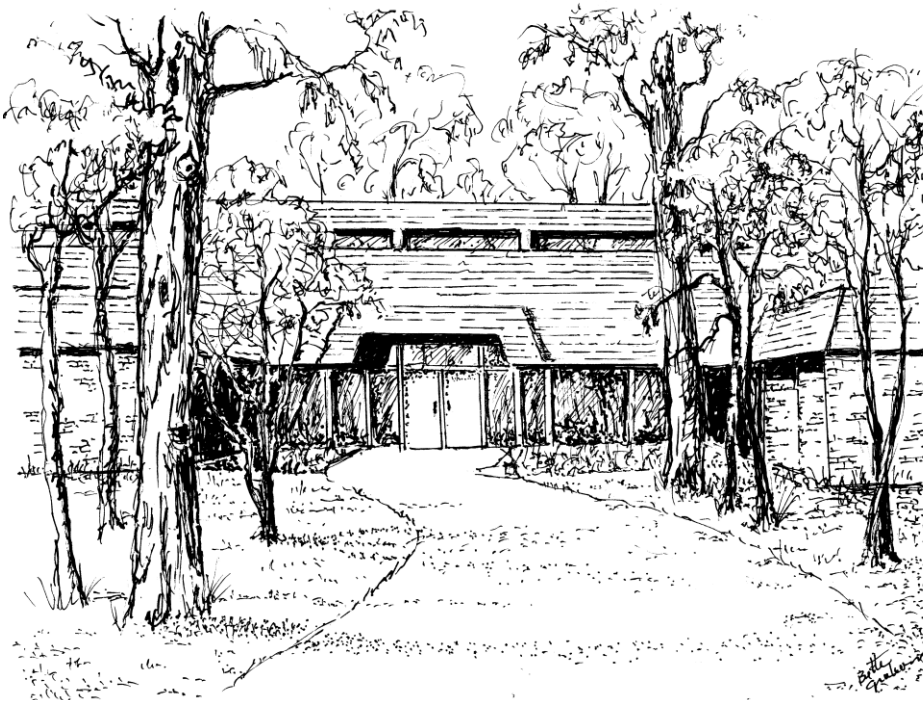
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*"Our congregation is
welcoming to all people,
including gay, lesbian,
bisexual, and
transgender persons."*

Dated Material



**SOS Capital Campaign
for our beloved building**

Aug. 29th to Sept. 19th

Kick-Off

Sunday, Aug. 29th

Plan now to attend!

Church Drawing by
Bette Graham. © 2008



**SAVE OUR
SANCTUARY**