

## **Young Adult Programs Annual Report 2007-08**

Jan Borr, Young Adult Programs Coordinator

In July 2007, Jan Borr was hired to direct the church's newly formed Young Adult Programming department. It is the first time in the church's history that we have had a department specifically geared to this demographic. According to the Unitarian Universalist Association, a "young adult" is defined as a person between the ages of 18-35.

The mission of young adult programming is to provide fun, fellowship, learning, and action in a casual, friendly environment in order to deepen our young adults' connection to the church community. This year, the program has focused on these four areas of activity: social events, community service, education, and worship.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Established a new listserv for young adults in order to promote communication. Over 80 people now belong to this list.
- Staff a young adult table every Sunday during social hour.
- Established a monthly potluck, traditionally held in a different group member's home each month. Attendance at this event has been in the 15-25 range.
- Established a monthly board/card games night. Attendance at this event has been in the 5-15 range.
- Established monthly bowling and movie events. Attendance at these events has been in the 5-10 range.
- Established a monthly community service project; attendance at this event has been in the 5-15 range.
- The organizations we have helped include: Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Humane Society, Portland Parks and Recreation, World Forestry Center, and First Unitarian Church.
- Offered a young adult Sustaining Circle. Offered a young women's group, which met for six weeks and had approximately 10 participants.
- Offered three classes through Adult Programs that were geared towards this age group: "Is Graduate School Right for You?"; "Exploring Relationships"; and "Seeking a Meaningful Career." The graduate school class had 6 participants that all completed the course. At time of printing, the other two classes had not yet begun.

In conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Young Adult Program organized a service project trip to New Orleans to help with the rebuilding of the city. Eleven young adults participated in this project. Thanks to fundraising, which brought in \$11,000, all of the participants were able to go without paying for the trip out-of-pocket. Fundraisers included: a dinner/silent auction that brought in over \$3,000 and

participation in Adult Programs' annual book sale, which brought in \$600. Additionally, we received many generous donations.

In New Orleans, participants engaged in a project with four phases:

- Trail maintenance and invasive species removal at Bayou Segnette State Park.
- Animal care at Animal Rescue New Orleans.
- Home rebuilding in Picayune, Mississippi.
- Home maintenance and repair in the Lower Ninth Ward.

Overall, participants felt that the trip was very meaningful and that it had a great impact on their lives, as well as the lives of those affected by Hurricane Katrina.