

THE SEARCHLIGHT

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January 2007

The Searchlight is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, Missouri 65201. It is published monthly from September through June. Submissions can be made by email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net or by mail to the church – Attention: Administrator. Deadline for submissions is noon on the third Monday of each month for publishing in the following month's Searchlight.



Transforming Our Congregation

Like almost every business, organization, club and church, the Columbia Unitarian Universalist Church has a mission statement. Ours

is short and sweet: “Nurturing Spirit and Service.” It’s a nice phrase, but is it more than that? Do you think we, as the Columbia UU Church, are living up to our stated mission? Could we do a better job?



The week before Christmas the members of the church board (Stephen Blower, Kacie Love, Tammy Jones, Jeanne Murphy, Shannon Dennis, Betty Acree, Barb Carter, and Eric Bader) and church Administrator Kathie Bergman met to discuss the book, Transforming Liberal Congregations. This book, by Reverend Roy Phillips, is the subject of our church’s upcoming “One Read” activities. The book contrasts two models of church life – one in which the church’s main focus is self-perpetuation through committee work, new

member recruitment, fundraising, etc; and one in which the church’s activities are focused on promoting real spiritual growth in its members.

The book discusses the reasons that people come to a non-doctrinal church such as ours. It explores shared ministry – the congregation ministering to themselves, each other and ultimately the larger world – as a way to provide the community, spiritual growth and meaningful service that members of liberal churches are seeking.

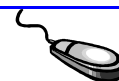
Starting this month and continuing through the spring, discussion groups facilitated by church board members will explore the ideas presented in “Transforming Liberal Congregations.” From these discussions we hope to develop ways to make our church life more spiritually enriching and meaningful for us all. Look for sign-up sheets for these discussion groups posted at church. Let’s nurture our spirits and our service, and make sure that our mission statement is much more than just a catchy phrase.

Jeanne Murphy

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Visit us at uuchurch.net!



Worship Services

Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Our church plans a lay-led service on one Sunday of each month of the regular church calendar year. Lay-ministry enriches us all and helps maintain the tradition of lay-ministry as a vibrant part of our church life. The Worship Associates are responsible for planning lay-led services in the upcoming year. If you have an idea for a Sunday service or just want to help, contact a Worship Associate or Rev. Bill Haney at the church.

- 07 Jan “Left . . . by Another Road”
The “Downing of the Greens” tradition begins with our children for the opening of the worship service to celebrate Epiphany by removing the decorations from the tree. Is there a message for each of us in the story of the Three Wise Men returning to their home country “by another road?” Our monthly pot-luck luncheon will follow the worship service. All are invited to attend.
- 14 Jan “The Meaning of Meeting”
How can one be in an authentic Right Relationship with another? What is it that constitutes that moment of the transforming power of love that can occur in a Right Relationship? We will depend in large measure upon the work of Martin Buber for some insights. Mary Margaret Coffield will be the Worship Associate.
- 21 Jan “On Caring”
The Congregational Caring Ministry will be leading this service. The various speakers will be church members and friends involved in giving care or who have been in need of care.
- 28 Jan “Because We Know”
How can we in Columbia respond to what is happening somewhere else in the world? What is our responsibility, and how do we act? The UU Singers will be a part of the service. The Faith-To-Action Collection will be for the local Rwanda Women’s Center. Christy Clark Hutton will be the Worship Associate.

Forum Schedule

The Forum, an adult discussion group, meets on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. in the Library/Forum Room, lower level of the church. Conversation and refreshments are offered along with the discussion. The Forum is open to the public. Dick Hanson is the January Forum Coordinator.

- 07 Jan “Our Whole Lives – An Introduction to Our Comprehensive Sexuality Education Programs – Larry Lile and Qhyrrae Michaelieu, Presenters.
- 14 Jan “Current Issues in Immigration” – Stephen Blower, Presenter.
- 21 Jan “Global Action to Prevent War” – Bill Wickersham, Presenter.
- 28 Jan Dr. Barbara Bauer, trauma psychologist, and Dr. Rangira Bea Gallimore will talk about *Step Up!*, a Columbia based organization founded to help women who survived the genocide in Rwanda as victims of sexual violence.

President's Article

Having served as President of the board for six months now, I am reminded of the message sent by the first century CE Christian disciple Paul to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 14:33: "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." In the context which this message appears, Paul



wants to remind the Corinthians that they all need to be "on the same page" in order to get things done, and whereas that is a simplification, it is a powerful message for our Church today, however we define God in the above quotation. My point is, our Church should not be a Church of Confusion, but of Peace. We have organization in our Church, and that helps us accomplish many of the goals that we ourselves have prioritized. Other translations of this verse use the word "disorder" instead of confusion: the Greek word used here (akatastasia) elsewhere in the New Testament means "tumult" and suggests resistance to order or authority. Everyone of our membership has an equal voice in this Church.

Through the democratic process, hand in hand with the representative policy Board, decisions affecting Church policy and organizational cohesiveness are made each month by your Board of Trustees. Not everyone may agree with the decisions made by the Board, but all are expected to respect the process. Though not perfect, we strive to be a Board, not of confusion, but of peace.

Stephen Blower

From the desk of the Church Administrator



The Searchlight is distributed free to members and friends of the UU Church of Columbia and to our visitors for three months. Donations are welcomed to help defray the cost for printing and postage for the 10 yearly issues. Please notify the church office of any changes to your name or address. The newsletter is also available in PDF format on line at www.uuchurch.net.

Kathie Bergman

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia is:

- To keep our commitment to the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association;
- To act upon these principles through a caring and friendly religious community for persons of all ages and diverse religious views;
- To promote spiritual growth and the quest for truth;
- To build our covenant with fellow Unitarian Universalist Congregations.

Adopted by the Congregation on May 22, 1994

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The David Letterman Canvass Plea

This year, about \$145,000 was pledged to the church. Unfortunately, it takes about \$153,000 to run the church at the current level. Almost all of this money goes to paying mortgage, utilities, insurance and salaries. There is almost nothing that can be cut. During the current year, we chose to hold our UUA dues, and planned to use our general funds (again) plus fund-raising to make up the difference. That budget did not include the necessary replacement of the decking and ramp outside the back door, or the expense of clearing the parking lot after a major snow storm, or increased utilities fees.

That's right. We needed about \$8000 more than was pledged this year just to keep running in place. No extras. The good news is that we have a few very generous donors who keep us going with huge pledges. The bad news is that most of us do not pledge enough to cover our "share" of the church expenses. Each year, about 30 "pledging units" do not pledge at all. So, as we enter the canvass season, I offer some ideas to think about.

The top ten reasons to pledge early and well:

10. We could disband both the Generosity Team and the FUNdraising committee, thus freeing a number of veteran volunteers for other projects.
9. We could budget our personal giving better, since there would not have to be myriad fundraisers throughout the year. We would all know what we were going to give up front, instead of being nicked and dimed to death.
8. We could fund all of the programs people are now doing individual fundraisers for from the regular budget, thus saving the volunteer time of those supporting these individual groups to actually run the programs in which they are interested.
7. We would not burn out volunteers as quickly, since they could concentrate on what they wanted to manifest rather than on how to fund it.
6. We could hire housekeeping services without depending on an individual donor, so volunteers would not have to do all of that, either—and they could concentrate on programs they are interested in rather than on vacuuming.



5. If we did not have a lot of individual fund raisers, Kathie would not have to spend so much of her time keeping our accounts straight, thus freeing her to do her job more effectively. (I understand that all these little funds are an accounting nightmare.)

4. We would not be at the mercy of a very few donors who are currently "carrying us" with their generous donations. Right now, if even one of our largest donors was suddenly unable or unwilling to continue to give at the level they do, the church would be in big trouble financially.

3. In this society, people value and support that for which they pay. Would commitment to the church increase if everyone gave their fair share?

2. The canvassers are almost all "church leaders"—Board members, committee chairs, the most committed and involved of our members (because that is who we can usually talk into doing it). Visiting with a canvasser gives you a chance to be heard, both your kudos and your concerns.

And the **top reason** to pledge generously:

To feel good about yourself, to know yourself to be generous, responsible and independent. To know that you are doing your share to support this church of which you have chosen to be a member.

What would your fair share be, you ask? With about 250 members, each member would have to pledge around \$600 to cover their own "share" to keep us going at this bare minimum. That is about \$50 a month, or \$11.50 a week. Let's face it: I spend more than that on unnecessary trivia in any given week, and I bet a lot of you do as well.

Obviously, some people are not going to be able to afford this, so the rest of us can help by offering what amounts to a scholarship: We give more than our "share" so that we can support those who have less than we do. We can also give more than our "share" to support the programs we would like to see funded by the church budget rather than by individual fundraising efforts.

What can you do? What will you do? Think about it.

Barbara Carter

Social Action News & Notes

Our January Faith-to-Action collection recipient will be a Columbia based organization called "STEP UP!" founded to help women who survived the genocide in Rwanda as victims of sexual violence. Rangira Bea Gallimore, an MU professor of Romance languages, lost 20 family members, including her mother, to the genocide in Rwanda. She started Step Up! American Association for Rwandan Women in the summer of 2004 to build a counseling center in Rwanda for women survivors of sexual violence. Dr. Barbara Bauer, trauma psychologist, and Dr Gillimore have made several trips to Rwanda on behalf of Step Up!

The needs of the Rwandan women are enormous. Not only are there needs for practical things such as jobs, food, and school supplies, but the mental health needs have largely remained unaddressed. Post traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety remain as aftermaths of the intense horror of the genocide. The women are very much willing to work but are handicapped by the emotional pain that is with them constantly. Training of paraprofessionals such as nurses, teachers, social workers, and interventions implemented to other volunteers for trauma relief address these needs.

In June, 2006, ten hours of training in Introduction to Trauma Psychology was given to 34 nurses at Butare University Hospital. Recognizing symptoms of trauma, relaxation, use of imagery, listening skills and problem solving were taught. The participants are eager to continue on to Advanced Treatment of Trauma when we return.

Step Up! plans to build a trauma training and counseling center. The center will target three categories of needs: women who are able to do projects or trades, such as sewing, but lack the resources; those with HIV/AIDS or who are too weak to work and who

receive medications through the government but lack nutrition; and women ages 18 to 22 in high school who lack school supplies and personal items.

You may send your check payable to the UU Church with "Faith to Action" written in the memo if you wish to participate and cannot be at the church January 28.



Try To Attend The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity Breakfast And Other Events

The 14th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast) will be on Thursday, January 11, 2007. Related event information, including the annual MLK March, should be in the newspapers, as well as on the [www. GoColumbiaMO.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMO.com) website.

Time To Bring In Your "Guest At Your Table" Contributions

Thanks to all of UU who have been collecting for the UU Service Committee in your Guest at Your Table boxes or envelopes in December. Now it's time to bring your contributions to the church. Please keep all the cash in your boxes; write out a check for that amount to "UUSC" and put "guest" on the memo line. If you would like to become a UUSC member, information is on the box or envelope. Put the checks, or the envelopes with the checks inside, into the collection basket at a Sunday service, or give them to Steve Mudrick. Thank you for helping the UUSC do its work for social justice in our name.

Thank You to All who Helped Last Year...

...and thanks to everyone who gave to our monthly Faith to Action collections last year. Also, thanks to all who helped to provide some holiday cheer with gifts or money to the Sudanese refugee family our church has been helping.

Visitor Orientation

On the second Sunday of the month there is a regularly scheduled informal orientation to the church led by the minister. This short session is designed for our visitors to meet Rev. Haney and to ask him questions about our church. Whether you are new to our church or have been attending for awhile, you are invited to meet in Rev. Haney's office after the worship service on **Sunday, January 14, 2007.**

What's New at UU?

You are invited to "Movies with a Message"

Friday January 5th at 7pm

lower level of the Unitarian Universalist Church

January's free documentary will be "This Land Is Your Land." This film explores globalization, the role of corporations, and the damage to America's manufacturing economy. "This Land is Your Land" blends pertinent information with uplifting humor to explore the impact of corporations on the daily lives and rights of ordinary people.

On the first Friday of each month the Green Sanctuary shows a documentary related to the environment or globalization and has conversation about it afterwards. Snacks are provided, but more are always welcome.

Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet Wednesday, Jan 10 at noon at the church. Sue Bader will lead a discussion of Jimmy Carter's book Palestine: Peace not Apartheid. Call Roberta Jones if you have questions.

Monthly Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet Friday, January 19 at the Formosa Restaurant, 913A East Broadway. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel with questions.

Congregational Care Ministry

The Congregational Care Ministry strives to be aware of the expressed needs of members and friends of the church. The ministry assists in working with the congregation to address those needs. Feel free to contact us if you or someone you know has a special concern. Tammy Jones is the Congregational Care Ministry Chair.

Meditation in Nature

Gans Creek Wildlife Area Every third Sunday of the month 9.00am to 10.00 am continues year round. Building a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness. Open to all people who love Nature. Contact Peter Holmes for more information.

Second Saturdays "Bowl Game" Jan. 13

Second Saturdays is a fellowship group for UU adults, single or attached, who are roughly ages 25 to 45. It meets on the second Saturday of each month. For the second Saturday of January, we will go bowling at T. A. Brady's at MU. Kids are welcome this month, too. Details will be announced by e-mail the prior week. If you're not on the Second Saturdays e-mail list and want to be, please contact us at secondsaturdays@uuchurch.net.

Music Program

If you have borrowed a hymnal from the church, please return it so that we can more accurately assess our need for additional purchases. And if you would like to purchase a hymnal, stop by the Book Table in the Greeting Area on Sunday mornings and talk to the volunteer. Cash donations to the Hymnal Fund or donations of the hymnal itself "Singing the Living Tradition" is always welcomed!

Interweave: UUs for LGBT Concerns

Join Interweave at noon on Sunday, January 14 in the Forum Room to plan for our get-together with The Center Project, Dennis Murphy's fantastic idea for an UU LGBT card & poster set, and our possible OWL benefit during our Valentine's Day celebrations. Contact Stephanie Dorman or Dennis Murphy for more information.



We are online at uuchurch.net!



What's New at UU, Continued

Women's Alliance Scholarship

The Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis announced the annual scholarship for the coming 2007-08 academic year. The \$1,000 scholarship award is offered to a woman 25 or older who is responsible financially for her continuing education or returning to school; a member of one of the UU congregations in the St. Louis UU Area Council (which this church is); a person of leadership ability, scholastic superiority, personal integrity, self-direction and humanitarian concerns; a registered student, carrying at least 6 hours of academic credit each term, who is aiming for a degree or full certification at an accredited college or university; and has evidence of need that will also be taken into consideration.

Application packets are now available upon request from:
The Women's Alliance Scholarship Committee
5007 Waterman Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108

Or by email: office@firstuustlouis.org. Deadline for completed applications is 31 March 2007. For further information, please contact Helen Cadoret at 314-725-1739.

Coming of Age

After years of wishing, hoping, and searching for a Coming of Age program for our middle school youth (11-13 years old), the Religious Education committee is ready to present one for next year! The YUUTS class is strong,

with many enthusiastic students. The combination of eager kids and an exciting program is just what we need for success. Well...we do need a bit more. Support from the congregation is needed in the form of mentors for our kids. About 15 adults will be needed for this important program. Each child will be carefully matched with a mentor by the DRE and RE committee. The adults will work with the youth on 13 Sundays spread out over the year. They will play games and make music with the kids, and help everyone to think through difficult topics. Classes are structured to avoid those uncomfortable silences that can happen when two people don't know what to say to each other. The mentors will provide the one-on-one attention that each youth needs, but within a safe group setting. Can you see a place for yourself in this program? We hope so! In the spring the RE committee will be actively seeking mentors for our kids. Please say yes if you are asked! Our kids deserve the best!

Bible Study

The Bible Study sessions will continue through the remainder of the church year. Beginning on the fourth Tuesday of January the 23rd, and the first and third Tuesdays thereafter, we will begin with the study of Paul's letter to the Romans. This will be an in depth study, taking a number of sessions, with a commentary to be announced to aid in the process. Stephen Blower and Reverend Haney will continue facilitating the sessions, held at 7 PM in the YUUT's room downstairs. So, see you on the 23rd of January at 7 PM. Child care can be arranged if you call the church office, 442-5764, to let us know.

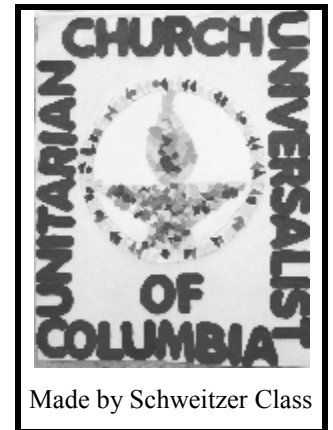
Our UU Community



Dave Rosman



Shannon Dennis



Made by Schweitzer Class

Membership in this church is open to all



All who choose to walk with us in the spirit of love and in agreement with our UU principles.

We have no creedal requirements for membership. If you wish to become a member, please speak to Rev. Haney or call the church office (442-5764).

Everyone is invited! Sunday Potluck Lunch January 7, 2006



**Immediately following the
worship service in the greeting
area at the church.
Bring a dish to share!**

Minister's Musings

SAYING "YES"

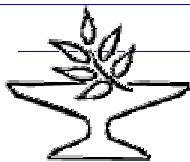
Another one has passed and yet another one is before us! The calendar says so! So, as with so many others in the Western world, we celebrate the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007. It's a New Year! However, like one's birthday, there doesn't seem to be any significant change. There isn't a transforming epiphany, a Damascus Road experience, no flash of blinding light to tell us; "Yes! This is a New Year!" There is, of course, the symbolic, human-made moment when the ball drops in New York City; but that's from one to three hours and more before the rest of the nation experiences the solar calendar moment. All so very provincial!

Another one has passed and yet another one is before us! This happens every day of our lives. Each day is an ending and a new beginning. The secular world will celebrate the New Year as if one's life may depend upon it. To be spiritual is to know one's religious life depends upon each day. What we do with our life from day to day, week to week, year to year reveals our true spiritual richness, our constant religious rebirthing. So, as we enter into a New Year, wishing each and everyone a "Happy New Year," let us not only say "Yes" to it, but continue by saying "Yes" to each day given to us.

Peace and Love,
Bill



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