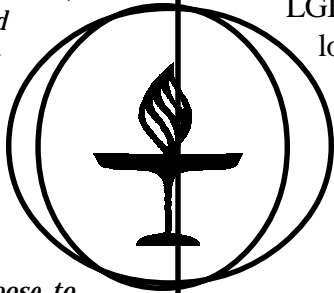




THE SEARCHLIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MO No. 10, SUMMER, 2004

The Searchlight is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Columbia, Missouri 65201. 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. To become a member one signs our Membership Book on the last Sunday of any month in the presence of the Minister and another member of the church. If you wish to become a member, please speak to Rev. Haney or call the church office (442-5764).



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Front Page News

UU Movie Group

LGBT Movie Nights will be continuing at the church (Forum Room in the lower level) on second Fridays of each month at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome. Bring snacks to share if you wish. There is no childcare for this program, but if you need to have childcare call the church office for suggestions.

Summer Worship

The schedule of worship services for the summer is complete. (See the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter.) Thanks goes to David Wellman who has excelled in recruiting and coordinating volunteers to plan and prepare the layled services. The tradition of lay-ministry enriches us all and helps maintain this vibrant part of our church life.

Worship Services will begin each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The Forum Discussion Group will meet prior to the service from 9 to 10 each Sunday morning. There will be no potlucks in June or August but a July 4th picnic is planned. Childcare will be offered each Sunday in the Nursery for young children. Older children will join us as we worship together in the sanctuary. The Water Ceremony marks the first service of the regular church year. Remember to collect a sample of water from your summer travels to bring to the Water Ceremony on August 29th. Rev. Haney will return to the pulpit on the first Sunday of September.

Welcoming Congregation Upcoming Events

- Committee meeting - Sunday, June 6, noon
- GLBTQAA Monthly Movie Night - June 11, 7:00 p.m.
- Committee meeting, Sunday, June 27, noon
- Summer workshop series, July 16, 17, and 31
- Committee meeting, Saturday, July 31, noon
- Committee meeting, Sunday, August 29, noon

Minister's Monthly Musings

A Summer Full of Hope...

The summer is upon us. It seems just a few days ago we were shivering from the cold north winds. Now the refulgence of spring is nearly complete to herald the lazy days of summer. For most of us, we will leave church life and activities behind for a while. There will be many working through the summer to provide informal lay-led worship services. To keep the doors open through the summer means we do not completely shut down church. Still, many activities become dormant through the summer, and for many, the summer months are for vacation, leisure and travel, not for church. With the dedication of those who do present the church to summer visitors fully recognized, we do want to also recognize the hiatus summer provides for many. I hope each of you will get a chance to stay in touch with your spiritual and religious natures through the summer, whether you attend the summer services or not. I hope summer will give you the opportunity to be with family and friends, to be out doors, to be able to appreciate the gifts you have and those that will be bestowed upon you in the future. You did well for the church this past year, and a few months off is fitting to re-charge your spiritual and religious batteries. I trust this will be a summer full of hope.

Have a great summer in Peace and Love, Bill

Excerpts from the Welcoming Congregation Committee Report to the Congregation May 2, 2004

What is a Welcoming Congregation?

A Welcoming Congregation publicly welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgenders (LGBTs) within its fellowship.

How can the UUCC receive this designation?

We first have to complete 16 action steps prescribed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in the areas of education, congregational life, and community outreach. Then the congregation will be asked to give a vote of affirmation (a "yes" vote) indicating we would like official recognition as a Welcoming Congregation from the UUA. After receiving a majority of positive votes from the membership, we will send a report to the UUA detailing our work on the action steps, and we will receive the official designation.

What are the benefits of earning and requesting the Welcoming Congregation designation?

We will have the right to advertise as a Welcoming Congregation. The UUA will send us official posters to place around the church. The Office of GLBT Concerns within the UUA will advertise us as a Welcoming Congregation on their website and in published materials. Members of the LGBT community may note this designation and choose to bring their time, talents, and treasures to this congregation.

Celebrating Our Members

On May 16th nine new members finding their religious journeys leading them to the UU Church were welcomed in the New Member Ingathering Ceremony: Marc Lenau, Thunder Falcon, Brian and Suzanne Bowles, Sandy Craig, Walter Gassmann, Jenn Sprague, Carol Snively, and Lenore Danziger. Others joining the church since January 1st but unable to attend the service were: Rochelle Renken, Mike Huffman, Liz Graznak, Alan and Hillary Tomhave, and Avery Danziger.

As part of welcoming them to our religious fellowship the congregation did renew our covenant together to seek meaning and truth in love, to respond to the callings of justice, and to be strengthened by our greater participation in the larger life of fellowship. It is in this spirit of love and commitment that we continue to work to build together a religious community of celebration, inspiration, sustenance and strength.

Membership in this church is open to all willing to join together in the spirit of love and in agreement with our UU principles. To become a member one signs our Membership Book. If you wish to become a member, please speak to Rev. Haney or call the church office (442-5764).

President's Report

Congregational Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Mo.
May 2, 2004

In any given year, most of the work is routine - maintenance, budgets, and reports. Yet, there are also highs and lows: members leaving and disagreements on one hand and new members joining and new programs starting on the other. I won't bore you with the mundane. The minutes of our meetings are always available!

This year, the board devoted time to revising the Bylaws that are being voted on today. (The Bylaws were adopted on May 2, 2004) This will bring our governance inline with our actual practices as well as streamline our operations.

We also deliberated over the budget. There is so much that we as a congregation long to do. Yet, our budget is finite and will only cover so much. In conjunction with the Finance Committee - who are the true budget wranglers - we roped out money for programs. As we pay down our mortgage and increase our membership, our budget should grow and allow us more opportunity to reach our visions.

The board also convened and supported a new canvass committee, now called the Generosity Team. As a result and thanks to their enthusiasm and hard work, we have had a successful canvass. More of us pledged and in larger amounts. The Generosity Team has also laid the ground for the next year's canvass, promising less stress and frustration for the committee.

Other focuses have been supporting the church's move to a policy format versus a management format for governance. Much thanks goes to Alan Arnold for his work in this area. I also extend the board's thanks to the three new council leaders: Jan Weaver (congregational development), Fran Reynolds (program), and Steve Mudrick (outreach).

I started on the board shortly after joining the church. Being this involved and informed is similar to the difference between being married versus dating. You get to see the bad along with the good. And, you get to see how strong and supporting a committed relationship can be. My sincere thanks to all of you for all your commitment to our church.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Graves
Board of Trustees - President



The Sound of UU Music

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the music program this year - the singers, the instrumentalists, our choir accompanists.

I hope to see all our returning, and hopefully some new, UU Singers on Wednesday, August 18th for a potluck and first rehearsal. The potluck will start at 6:00 at church, and after eating we will go downstairs to start looking at music for September.

The UU Choristers (Youth choir) is in need of revitalizing. Our core group of girls are graduating up to the UU Singers, so now is the time to start afresh. Should we change the meeting time - some churches have the youth choir meet before the adult choir on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:00, or does 9:30 - 10:00 on Sunday morning still work best?

I need to hear from parents who would like to have their children have the choir experience - is there enough interest to continue with a youth choir?

Again, my thanks to everyone who has participated this year. Have a wonderful summer, and I'll see you in the fall, if I don't see you at summer services.

Desi Long, Music Director

Worship Services June 2004

Sunday Services: 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary
(Meditation Time 9:30 - 10:00 AM every Sunday)

During the upcoming summer months we will explore the diverse interests of our congregation in unusual and imaginative worship services. There will be no potlucks in June and August but we will be having a picnic on the 4th of July. We are also planning to have childcare available in the nursery for the younger children. Stay connected. Come to church on Sunday mornings!

June 06 - We're All Children of the Universe

Children of all ages - bring a favorite stuffed animal to this interactive service celebrating families in their many forms. Join us for a potluck brunch BEFORE the service at 9:15 a.m. Stephanie Dorman

June 13 - The Dissatisfied Society

Ever feel that there is never enough: time, money, ability? That there is always more to be done or ways to improve? We'll look at ways that we are taught to be discontent and ways that we can transcend those messages. Rebecca Graves

June 20 - Father's Day 2004

We are blessed to have representatives of four generations with us in this church. Our discussions will deal with the changing attitude of Fatherhood over the last 100 years. David Rosman

June 27 - Discussion>Decision>Action

Have you ever worked for a company or been involved with a group where you would swear the motto was "The meetings will continue until we determine why nothing is getting done."? This service is going to focus on some of the dynamics of discussing an idea, deciding on a course of action, and then taking action with a sense of urgency. As our church grows so does the need for action. The first desired action is for you to attend this service. Please come prepared to take an interactive role in this fast paced, fun, and inspirational service! Larry Dorman

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group meets at 8 AM for breakfast every 2nd and 4th Saturdays at a local restaurant. We discuss topics of current interest. Everyone is welcome to attend. For location, contact Sam Anand.



Forum Schedule

The Forum, an adult discussion group, will continue to meet throughout the summer months on Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. Conversation and refreshments are offered along with the discussion. The Forum, as always, is open to the public.

June 6 - **Immigration Issues**; Steve Blower

June 13 - **Local Environmental Issues**; Jan Weaver

June 20 - **Family Health Center and Health Access Issues**; Gloria Crull, Executive Director, FHC.

June 27 - **Missouri K-12 Education Funding**; Otto Fajen, Legislative Director, Missouri National Education Assn.



Worship Services

July 2004

Sunday Services: 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary
(Meditation Time 9:30 - 10:00 AM every Sunday)

July 04 - The Pursuit of Happiness

What does this phrase from the Declaration of Independence mean? What did Jefferson have in mind when he wrote it, and what might it mean to us today? We will explore this subject in an informal picnic service held on the patio, weather permitting. Bring a blanket and your own picnic lunch. Drinks will be provided. David Wellman

July 11 - The Blessing of the Animals

In this service our furry, feathery, and scaly animal companions receive the recognition they are due. Please bring your pets to show off to the congregation as you say a few words about what makes them special. This is one occasion in which all pets are prizewinners! We will assemble outside in the back if it is pleasant, or inside in the sanctuary in case of rain. Pictures of favorite pets who are no longer with us are also welcome. Marianne Erickson

July 18 - In the Words of the UUA Covenant

“The living tradition which we share draws from many sources.” One source is the spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. This morning we will hear about Native American Themes and Traditions from the perspective of a tribal member and a UU. Thunder Falcon

July 25 - Leaving the Garden: A Metaphor for All Times

In this service we will explore the biblical metaphor of the Garden of Eden and how it applies to many instances of our individual and collective lives. We come “out of the garden,” so to speak, when we gain knowledge or experience that transforms our lives and makes it impossible to return to the “bliss” of ignorance from which we have ascended. Alan Arnold

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



Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will gather at the church on Wednesday noon, June 9th, for brown bag lunch. Bring a snack to share if you care to, or come a little early to help set up. Beverages are provided. Sharon Hanson will present a program based on her experience as a researcher and writer, “To publish or not”. The program begins at 12:45. The meeting is open to all women and friends of the church.

Nine members were present to hear Sally Brown’s talk and view artifacts highlighting the founding and growth of the Columbia fellowship/church. Contributions of early members no longer with us were shared as well as contributions of present long-time members. We learned there have been 8 women over the 53 years who exercised leadership as President of the Board of Trustees. The Women’s Federation preceded us as an organization for women and friends of the church. They were active in the late 60’s and early 70’s.

Do come join us for fellowship and an interesting program. Call Roberta Jones or Sue Bader if you have questions.

Worship Services August 2004

Sunday Services: 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary
(Meditation Time 9:30 - 10:00 AM every Sunday)

Aug. 01 - Finding Faith In An Unfaithful World

In a world of ever-growing turbulence and uncertainty, how do we as Unitarian Universalists find grounding and comfort in our faith tradition? Join Cynthia Brix, candidate for the UU ministry as she shares meditations on sustaining our own faith through loving kindness and prayers to all of our sisters and brothers, civilian and soldiers throughout the world. Cynthia Brix, Ministerial intern at First Universalist Church of Denver

Aug 08 - The Beloved Community

Why do we join a church? Why should we want to gather together each week? What are the questions we are asking ourselves and how can we find the answers? Kathie Bergman

Aug 15 - To Make a Joyful Noise

A celebration in song of our connection to Humanity, the Earth, and the Transcendent. Terry Song and Jackie Ambrow

Aug 22 - "Is a Jew?"

Every once in a while, someone will ask me if I am Jewish. I find it a very strange question. How do you know if someone is Jewish? Do they look different? Sound different? Smell different? On this day we will look at the soul of being a Jew in a Christian world. David Rosman

Aug 29 - Water Ceremony

Bring a sample of water from your summer travels to this service where we will celebrate the opening of the new church year. Naoma Powell

FUNdraising Committee

A total of \$867 was raised in the two-day garage sale at the church. \$280 of this amount fulfills the fundraising goal for the year. The remaining funds will be used to offset the current deficit. Marianne Erickson wishes to particularly thank the following individuals for their part in the garage sale effort:

- 1) All of the generous donors, of course!
- 2) Volunteers: Lila Leland, Brian and Suzanne Bowles, Sharon and Richard Hanson, Anni Martin, Fran Reynolds, Lisa Fritsche, Pat Kraff, Dennis Murphy, Catherine and Wilma Jordan, Roberta and Lee Jones, Ann and Arnold White, Stephanie and Larry Dorman, Kathie Bergman, Sam Anand, and Linda Rexroth. (Please forgive any omissions!)

Caring Committee Announces

We don't know at the time of the printing of this newsletter who the Caring Assistants for the summer months will be. Please call the church office for information on who the Caring Assistant is throughout the summer, and Kathie Bergman will assist you. The Caring Assistant is responsible for activating the Caring Committee in response to our members' significant life transitions or achievements or stressful circumstances. We depend upon each of you to alert us to members who have special personal and family needs. Jan Swaney and Allie Gassmann, Caring Committee Co-chairs



Social Action Reports

The final special collection for this church year was May 23rd. The recipient was the nonprofit Southern Poverty Law Center. In the previous three special collections, our congregation contributed nearly \$1600 in the name of our church. The Social Action Committee thanks all of you who have made these special collections such a wonderful success so far. For the Social Action Committee, Steve Mudrick



Sign Up Now For This Fall

for

UU Co-Rec Softball

Efforts are now underway to form a Columbia UU Church co-rec softball team. It's a great way to promote our church and have fun while getting some exercise. The season begins in mid-August and lasts for six weeks.

*Both men and women are needed.
Skill and experience are NOT required.*

Contact Larry Dorman by phone at 808-4297 or by e-mail at softball@bestfx.net to get more information and to sign up to play.

We're getting ready for next year!

This summer the YRE committee, along with the new director, will be hard at work preparing next year's Sunday School program.

Our plan is to have all the children, preschool through 5th grade, meet in the centering room for an opening ritual. The youngest kids will quickly leave for the Potter room. The other children (K-5th) will stay together for a lesson from the chosen curriculum. When this is done, the kids will go to the Art & Crafts room, or the Active Learning room. (In Sept. the kids will choose between the two. They will stick with their choice for two months.) We need teachers for the Arts & Crafts room, the Active Learning room, and the Potter Class (pre-school).

We are starting a new social action program. After participating in the start of the adult service on the first Sunday of the month, the kids will leave the 'Sunday Service', and go downstairs for 'Service Sunday'. All the children (K-5th) will participate in a service project. We need teachers for Service Sundays (1st Sunday of each month).

Lesson plans, supplies and training will be provided to all volunteers.
Parents can help us by answering a few questions....

I can help by teaching 6-8 weeks in....

- Potter classroom
- Arts & Crafts
- Active Learning
- Service Sunday (1st Sundays only)
- As fun as it sounds, I can't commit to this right now!

My kids will probably choose...

- Arts & Crafts _____
- Active Learning _____

How many of your kids in each?

Parent name, phone number & email _____

Please mail this slip to Lisa Fritsche, Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Joys and Concerns

- We send our heartfelt condolences to Ann White on the tragic loss of Arnold White. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ann and Ann and Arnold's families and loved ones.
- We also send condolences to Qhyrrae Michaelieu and her family and loved ones on the passing of her father, who died peacefully in his sleep after long illness.
- We send condolences to the Breitenbachs on the death of Bob's brother-in-law.
- Naoma had shoulder surgery on May 27. We send healing wishes to Naoma.
- Healing wishes also to Margaret Tyler after her cataract surgery.
- Chuck Roberts is back at home and doing well. It's good to have Chuck back!
- It's good to have Irene Karns back with us - walking!
- Congratulations to the Bader family on the birth of their new granddaughter/niece/cousin!
- Carolyn Leuthold reports from Montana that she and David are doing well, and sends her greetings.
- Congratulations to Stephanie Dorman on receiving the Catalyst Award presented by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center at MU.
- Congratulations to Neil Minturn on receiving the Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.
- Congratulations to the 2004 graduating seniors: Hannah Minturn, Sharin Muskrat, Sean Byland, Zoe Welch, Kate Springer, Brian Carmigniani, Ellie Bergman, Leah Swaney, and Lydia Young.

Jan Swaney and Allie Gassmann, Caring Committee Co-chairs

The Searchlight

The Unitarian Universalist Church
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From the desk of the Church Administrator

The church office will be open part of the time during the summer months. I will be out of town on vacation for a few days in June. Please call before stopping by if you need to get into the building. If you need a key, contact me at least a week ahead of time. Call me at home if you have questions or if there are emergencies. Email is a good choice for communications: uuchurch@coin.org Let me know if there is any change to your email address, street address, or phone number as I plan to work on an updated Church Directory this summer.

This ends the 12th church year that I have served as C.A. I think I'm finally getting the hang of things but I know that I can improve with gentle guidance from the members. Thank you for all the kind expressions of appreciation and friendship.

This church means so much more to me than just a job. I especially appreciate Rev. Haney and his continuing patience with me. Also, special thanks to the outgoing Board members: Rebecca Graves, Todd Iveson, Monica Miller and Alan Arnold. They made the second Tuesday Board meetings a highlight of the month! (Board meetings are held at the church at 7 o'clock on the second Tuesday of each month and are open to all UU members.)

The next Searchlight will be published prior to the Water Ceremony on August 29th. Submissions need to be in the church office by August 16th. Looking forward to working with all of you as we live out the church's Mission Statement. Kathie Bergman