

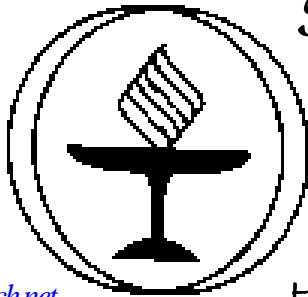


THE SEARCHLIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MO No. 5, JANUARY, 2005

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

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FRONT PAGE NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Saturday, January 22nd. 6 - 9 p.m.

Founders' Day Fellowship Dinner

"Memories and Dreams"

Special Mystery Guests

Hope	Music Fun	Great Food Families	Nostalgia Inspiration
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Menu:

Fried Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls and Vegetable Lasagna (for the low fat diet followers and vegetarians)

Tickets go on sale January 2nd at the church

\$10 per adult;

\$5 per child of 5 years and older;

\$3 per child of 3 years and older;

Under 3 FREE!!!

This event is for all U.U. members and friends and their families.

U.U.'s who might wish to remember a special U.U. member or friend should contact Marianne Erickson.

Young U.U.'s or YRUU's who might wish to present their hopes/dreams for their futures, should also contact Marianne Erickson.

This will be a very special night — for our church and for you.

Don't miss it!

The FUNdraising Committee

President's Article

DID YOU KNOW that about 1/3 of the people who attend Sunday worship services are our children downstairs? For November, our average Sunday attendance was 90 adults upstairs and 46 children downstairs. That's a lot of kids in our church! The flip side of that is: That's a lot of parents of school age kids! New members often say they began coming because they were looking for religious education for their children. That was one of the main reason I came to this church 12 years ago, but it's not the main reason I'm still here. In addition to a religious education for my daughter, I found a place for myself. There are programs and activities to enjoy and learn from, and there is work I can help out with.

Our church recognizes that childcare is an important consideration for many parents who want to be able to participate in programs and contribute to the life of our church. Some programming and jobs can be done with children around, but others are adult focused. Funding for childcare was a high priority when the councils worked on the budget last year. In the final budget the line for childcare wasn't as much as had been hoped, but that was true for many lines on the budget. One of the realities of church life is that there is rarely enough money to fully fund everything and compromises need to be made.

At our last meeting the board of trustees discussed childcare. Childcare is provided for many programs but the system isn't perfect. It

might not always be clear to parents whether or not childcare is going to be provided. People organizing activities may not always know if participants will need childcare. It might not always be clear who is responsible for childcare. Finding someone who can provide the childcare can be hit or miss. Are these problems, or not? Does lack of availability of childcare create a barrier that keeps some parents from participating as fully in the life of the church as they would like? We're not sure. The board decided to create a task force to look into this issue. It will probably fall under the auspices of the Program Council. The task force will first explore whether the way we currently provide childcare meets the needs of most parents of young children. If needed, the task force will look at ways that we could do it better. Because we are reliant on volunteers and our coffers aren't overflowing, developing feasible improvements will take creativity. We are looking for a few people who would like to be on this task force. If this is an important concern of yours, or just something you think you would enjoy working on, let Kathie Bergman or me know. You don't have to be a parent of a young child to volunteer. It's nice to have church members from different generations and walks of life working together on things. Most of us who no longer have young children can remember the hassles of finding childcare. After all, the children of our church are all of our responsibility.



Leslie Luchene
Board President

Welcoming Congregation News

The committee has submitted our action step report to the UUA's Office of BLGT Concerns to request recognition of the Welcoming Congregation designation. On November 7, we sponsored PRISM's birthday bash. PRISM is an organization for LGBT youth. November 12 was our most recent movie night.

Christy Clark Hutton and Stephanie Dorman spoke about the Welcoming Congregation program to the Jefferson City UU Fellowship during their Sunday morning service on October 31,

2004. The members formed a committee and signed on a chairperson directly after the service, and they are on their way. To support Jefferson City's efforts and to continue our growth as a Welcoming Congregation, we will be offering a LGBT issues and concerns conference on January 7-8, with a follow-up session on January 29.

To continue education on related issues, Stephanie Dorman will facilitate a two-session workshop series, "What is Marriage For?" on January 30 and

February 6. The purposes of these sessions are to explore the history, beliefs, and attitudes about marriage and how they relate to the current discussion about same-gender marriage.

The Welcoming Congregation committee will be transitioning into an Interweave (Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns) chapter after the first of the year to continue our work in this area. Look for more information about this next month.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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.

January 2nd

"THE PROMISE REMAINS"

This Sunday is the conclusion of the Christmas season with the "Downing of the Greens." The children will be with us for the opening of the service to remove the ornaments and decorations from the Christmas Tree. The monthly potluck luncheon follows the service.

JANUARY 9th

*"FROM WHENCE
DO WE COME?"*

As we enter into the New Year, it is a time to reflect upon our personal "new beginning" and upon the new beginning spawned by immigration into this country, both past and present. Stephen Blower will be the Worship Associate for the service.

January 16th

"THE DREAM OF DREAMS"

Martin Luther King, Jr., gave this nation a legacy of a dream that is yet to be realized. In this season of new hope, what are our opportunities for the dream? The UU Singers will be a part of the service.

January 23rd

*"THE FUNDAMENTALS OF
FUNDAMENTALISM"*

Based on Karen Armstrong's book, this first of two services will take a look at the issue of religious fundamentalism. How does a religious liberal stance "fit" into such a religious scheme? Cande Iveson will be the Worship Associate.

January 30th

"THE COURAGE TO BE"

January 28, 1951, was when this church was founded with the election of officers and the determination to begin regular Sunday services. In this service we honor those who went before us. Rebecca Graves will be the Worship Associate.

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 at 442-5764.

FORUM SCHEDULE

THE FORUM, an adult discussion group, meets on Sundays at 9-10 a.m. in the Library, lower level of the church. Conversation and refreshments are offered along with the discussion. The Forum, as always, is open to the public.

1/2 "New Year Resolutions"

Forum members will bring their primary resolution to the meeting and, depending on the size of the crowd, they may be drawn by lots for a five-minute presentation of their personal resolution. Should be great fun and also provide a glimpse of the concerns that people have for our future. Bill Clark will moderate.

1/9 "Raising Children - How Times Have Changed"

The presenter, Sharon Harl is a Missourian columnist.

1/16 "Providing Services for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Columbia"

Presenter Leigh Voltmer, is Executive Director of Comprehensive Human Services in Columbia.

1/23 "Forrest Rose on Forrest Rose - With a Little Music on the Side"

Forrest Rose is a columnist for the Tribune and a well-known musician. You'll get a mini-concert as well as in-depth discussion about our community.

1/30 "War Unrest in the 1970's and Black History at MU"

Presenter Daryl Hobbs has been a professor of rural sociology at MU for 40 years and is a former chair of MU's ethics committee.



MINISTER'S MONTHLY MUSINGS

A PLACE NOT JUST TO BE . . .

Inserted in the midst of the Twelve Days of Christmas is New Years Day. Not until I began to have an extended understanding of the Christmas season (that is, from Advent, through Christmas Day to Epiphany) did I realize how, in some sense, New Years is a disruption. One week after Christmas Day, we have

another intense eve of celebration. Once we get over the intensity of Christmas Day and have the possibility of winding down the season with Epiphany, yet another celebration is upon us – and one not really connected to the sensations of the Christmas season. However,

there is yet even a possible promise in that “intrusion” – a moment of reflection. To that end, I ran across this poem in a newsletter column of a few years back by the Reverend Earl Holt, and thought it perhaps useful in these days of contemplation and reflection.

The past is gone and the future never comes.
What do we have, then?
Only now,
Only this moment.
But it too is evanescent, fleeting,
Disappearing in the instant we are conscious of it.

This is the mystery of time
And our lives,
Which are only a moment in time,
A flicker of the eyelash of eternity.

The past has formed us
And if we have no memory
No consciousness of belonging –
no connection –
No sense of being part
Of what has been before,
Then we are lost
And all alone.

The future shapes us
And if we have no future
No consciousness of going forth –
no connection –
No sense that we belong
To those who succeed us,
Then we are shapeless,
Without form and void.

For before God created anything
He created the beginning
Which hinted at a future
Which pointed a direction
Which in time
Gave us a place to stand
In time,
A place not just to be
But to become.



Peace, Love and Happy New Year,

Bill.

FUNdraising Committee News

Thanks to you (all), the U.U. FUNdraising Committee is on target, meeting 50% of its goal for the Operating Fund when the fiscal year is half over! The Thanksgiving Pastry auction resulted in \$380 in profits due to the efforts of thirty plus U.U. bakers and organizers! (and another thirty plus buyers!) Thank you to all for your time and trouble!

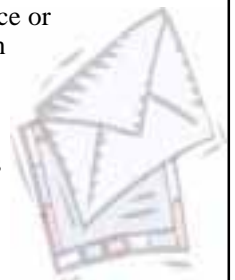
Gorgeous Sterling silver/glass flaming chalice necklaces have been designed for U.U. members by one of our artisans from the October Art and Antique Sale. They range in price from \$28 - \$34. Ask Marianne Erickson for more information.

Visitor Orientation

On the second Sunday of the month there is regularly scheduled an informal orientation to this 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 a while you are invited to meet in Rev. Haney's office after the worship service on **Sunday, January 9, 2005.**

From the desk of the Church Administrator:

Statements of financial contributions to the church during the 2004 calendar year will be prepared and mailed in January. Contributions to the church are tax deductible if no service or product is provided in return. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about your statement. Happy New Year!
Kathie Bergman



What Is Marriage For?

The Welcoming Congregation committee/ Interweave will offer “*What Is Marriage For?*” this winter in conjunction with Adult Religious Education. This program will encourage participants to share ideas about evolving notions of marriage. The objectives are:

- to investigate historical beliefs and practices with regard to marriage;
- to explore modern marriage customs and laws, and the belief system inherent in them;
- to examine attitudes toward marriage of same-sex couples against current beliefs about the purpose of marriage; and
- to develop a personal definition of marriage (both what it is and why we do it).

During the discussion sessions, participants will examine laws and customs of bygone eras to better understand underlying beliefs and assumptions. They will also explore current practices to determine the extent to which these practices reflect modern values and assumptions about marriage. Finally, they will consider how a faith

community can honor each individual spirit as we “live up to the rigorous demands of love.”

Facilitated by Stephanie Dorman, the series will be held on Sunday, January 30 and Sunday, February 6, 2005 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the church. Registration will begin January 9, 2005.

Please sign up in the greeting area on Sundays in January, or email to register by giving your name, email address, and phone number. The class will be limited to 12 participants. All are welcome; it is not necessary to be married or a member of the church to participate. Childcare will be available for a minimal cost. RSVP for childcare when you register. Before

the class begins, registrants are asked to read *What Is Marriage For? The Strange Social History of Our Most Intimate Institution* by E.J. Graff, which is available at the church book table or online at http://www.uua.org/bookstore/product_info.php?products_id=387.



Why I pledge my financial support to the UU Church of Columbia

Over the last few months I have enjoyed reading other member's statements about why they give to our church so when I was asked to write a short statement, I was glad to give it a try. Others have said it so well and I want to second their eloquent statements about pledging to support the values and programs that are part of this community.

When I joined the church five years ago, I knew surprisingly little about how church finances work. In part this is surprising because I make my living doing fiscal work but I grew up in a church and a home where finances were seldom discussed. My primary reasons for joining the church were religious education and growth for my children and myself and fellowship in warm and loving community. I have never been disappointed in these regards.

After a few years here, I had an opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee. Both of these experiences were very educational and changed my view about giving. I learned that while there are some large and generous donors in our church, the vast majority of our financial needs are met by medium and small pledges. Every dollar does make a difference. I learned that I feel good about contributing what I can to support what goes on here (to pay fair wages to our staff, building expenses, supplies, postage and so forth). And while I still must confess I don't get very excited by discussions about district and national dues, I know that these things are important to the health of our church and what it can provide for us. There are plenty of other things that do excite me about our church home.

I want to end by saying that I feel giving to the church is truly a gift that gives back. I think it is a responsibility made lighter by sharing.
Barbara Montgomery, Finance Chair



Monthly Book Discussion Group

The UU book discussion group will meet at 5:30, Friday, January 21 at a local restaurant, TBA. Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner and to comment on a book they have read recently.

Call Pam Springsteel or Dorinda Derow for the location.

Finance Committee: Looking Ahead

As many of you may be aware, we are approaching the time of year when we hold our annual canvass. For the finance committee, it means we are beginning to talk about the budget for next year. Although it seems as if we've hardly begun the current year, time flies when you're having fun. This will mark our second year of program budgeting as opposed to the line item budgeting we have done in the past. The finance committee will still continue to monitor expenses line by line but looking at our church's budget by programs provides the entire congregation with a means of seeing the

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

budget in a different way.

As a congregation, we have established a mission statement and an action plan for achieving that vision. When we break our budget apart by programs, we can see more clearly how our money is being used toward our goals. We can make deliberate decisions based on programming rather than just addressing increases in costs without focusing our efforts. Currently there are seven program areas identified in our budget:

- Worship (including music)
- Community within (programming including adult RE, small groups, etc.)
- Youth religious education
- Community outreach (social action)
- Association connection (dues to our area council, district and national organizations)
- Administration (the cost of doing business)
- Income generation (the costs associated with renting out our building as a means of community outreach)

Costs that are directly identifiable with these programs (such as RE supplies or social action activities) are allocated to them. Overhead costs such as the mortgage, utilities and insurance and staff support are "shared" between the programs. In this way, a better idea of the true cost of activities can be gained and informed decisions about programming made.

More about budgeting next time! *Barbara Montgomery, Finance Chair*

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group meets at 8 AM for breakfast every 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Holiday Inn, Executive Center. We discuss topics of current interest. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Joys and Concerns

Linda Lenau's mother passed away in early December just a few days short of her 91st birthday. Our heartfelt condolences to Linda, Marc, Thunder Falcon, and family.

Larry Dorman's grandfather passed away at age 95 on December 1. Our heartfelt condolences to Larry, Stephanie, Adele, and Stephan.

Alan Arnold's grandmother passed away at age 101 on December 4. Our sincere condolences also to Alan, Carol, Ian, and Christopher.

Monica Miller and Pat Kraff both had operations in November and are both recovering well. We send continued healing wishes to them.

We send long distance healing wishes to Ruth Griffith who was in the hospital for an infection in her leg.

Our thoughts are with Jackie Ambrow and her

family. Jackie's mother has some unexplained problems with her heart.

Congratulations to Pam Springsteel on the birth of her new granddaughter and on moving to her new house.

Happy birthday and congratulations to Bob Habenstein for having a Sociology endowment started in his name.

It was good to see Anne Robins back at church! At the writing of this newsletter, Anne is feeling upbeat and energetic. We hope that Anne can feel so good for a long time to come!

If you need assistance or know of someone who does, please contact the Caring Assistant for December, Allie Gassmann.

Jan Swaney and Allie Gassmann, Co-chairs

January Newsletter- SAC

The Social Action Committee will once again facilitate monthly special offerings for selected groups which contribute to local, state, national or international welfare. These offerings are intended to give us the opportunity to give freely, with love, an amount large or small, or none at all. We particularly do not wish anyone to feel any pressure to participate.

Our first collection will benefit the School of Service/Access Arts, started and nurtured especially by Naoma Powell, long time UU member. Below is a message by Naoma.

“The primary goals of School of Service/Access Arts always have been service to people and the community, and accessibility to all ages, to those with disability as well as the abled, to those of broad cultural diversity and financial circumstances, including the disadvantaged working together with the privileged. By two surveys, 66% and 67% of our

students enrolled were within the low income level by government guidelines. Even “impossible” goals are accomplished through combined energies and resources, which become sufficient to meet the challenges of low income, disability and cultural diversity. Art, which is expression of the spirit within each individual is the standard by which cultures are measured. It can be the unifying force by which differences strengthen rather than destroy humanitarian progression. The more technological our society becomes, the greater is the cry within each person for expression of the spirit, for the arts. A society deprived of humane expression, often finds expression in violence and conflict.

* Access Arts: 200 scheduled weekly classes throughout the year in pottery, weaving, writing, drawing, sculpture, music, photography; with over 2000 annual enrollments.

* Scholarships or fee waivers given to those unable to attend classes without assistance each year (ca. 400 scholarships given annually, in value of \$14,000 - \$17,000).

* Twice monthly workshops offer students learning opportunity beyond regular classes.

* Demonstrations for public school art days and art fairs extend arts into community.

* Fun City, summer classes held in our studios for low-income, minority children.

* Out-of-School Classes at Access Arts throughout the year for at-risk children.

* Partners in Art, two annually art lessons for all 200+ children at Benton Elementary.

If you prefer to mail your contribution please make checks to Unitarian Universalist Church and note Special Collection on the memo line of your check. All contributions are tax-deductible.



Extend a
hand

To ourselves, for ourselves
FOR OUR FUTURE

The logo is by Emily Thomas, age 10. The slogan is by Greg Bergman, age undisclosed. The commitment must be by all of us.

Yes, it is that time of year again. The pledge drive will soon be upon us. Last year, many of us increased our pledges dramatically. We got about 10% more in pledges than we had in the previous year. In the last few months, our new members have pledged, a couple old members found themselves able to pledge after all, and we got pledges from two new Friends who have not, at this point, formally joined the church, bringing in an additional \$5000 in pledges.

This year we were budgeted to use over \$4000 of our unrestricted reserve funds in order to meet basic expenses. If we receive all the money currently pledged, we may actually break even this year after all. Wouldn't that be great?

There are so many services and programs we could provide if we could do more than break even, though. For instance, I still want that sexton, and the Generosity Team recently had a wistful discussion of how nice it would be to have a church van to pick up members who can't drive for some reason.

There are those who always give thousands of dollars more than the rest of us, and those who increased their pledges last year. We aren't going to ask them to increase their pledges even more. We **are** going to ask those who did not increase their pledge last year to consider doing so this year. Just begin to consider whether this year it might be possible to give a little more, to extend a hand—to yourself, for yourself, for the future of our church.

Caring Committee Announces:

Jan Swaney will be the Caring Assistant in January. 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, Committee Co-chairs

THE SEARCHLIGHT

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The Writers' Groups welcome people who enjoy writing and are interested in life stories.

The Women's Group will meet:
Saturday, Jan. and 22 at 10:00
A.M. in the Centering Room.

The Mixed Group will meet:
Saturday, Jan. 15 and 29 at 10:00
A.M. in the Centering Room.

Call or email Fran Reynolds for further information.



Bring a dish to share!
EVERYONE IS INVITED!
FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

JANUARY 2, 2005

Immediately following the worship service
In the Greeting Area at the church

Social Action Reports

MLK Breakfast and other events...

The 12th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast) will be on Thursday, January 13, 2005. Check the newspapers for other related events. The website www.GoColumbiaMO.com should have information.

Guest at Your Table Return...

It is time to return the GAYT contributions for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Please convert all the money you collected in your boxes to a check made out to UUSC; put "Guest" on the memo line. Do NOT make out the check to our church. This is the major fundraiser for

UUSC, which promotes our UU principles in its advocacy work in this and other countries. Check it out at www.uusc.org. If you haven't yet contributed, please do so - become a member if you can. Steve Mudrick or other SAC members will be collecting the checks.

Thank you for food & money for the Pantry...

So far this church year we have taken 134 pounds of food and \$79 to the Central Missouri Food Bank Pantry. Thanks to all of the youth, their parents, and the others who contributed it. Unfortunately, more will be needed.