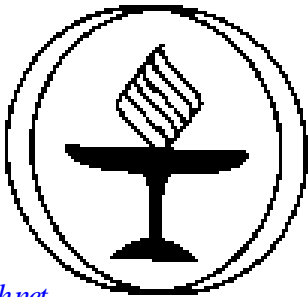



THE SEARCHLIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MO No. 7, MARCH, 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 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.



FRONT PAGE NEWS

You did it!!

*Now come claim your
Just Desserts*

*A post canvass party just for us
a good time with family and friends
Children welcome*

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*Saturday, March 5, 2005
at the Unitarian-Universalist Church
7:00-9:00 PM*

*Haven't pledged yet, and feeling too guilty to come?
We can help you with that.*

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.

06 March

"HOW DO WE EXPRESS OUR VALUES?"

It's often easy to tell someone what you believe if there is a doctrine or dogma to depend upon. However, in a covenant tradition, what do we say? The children will be with us for the opening of the service. The monthly pot-luck luncheon follows the service.



13 March

"BEING LIBERAL IN A FUNDAMENTAL WORLD"

We define ourselves as religious liberals. In relation to our claim, what actions do we take in the world to proclaim that stance? The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Rebecca Graves will be the Worship Associate for the service.

20 March

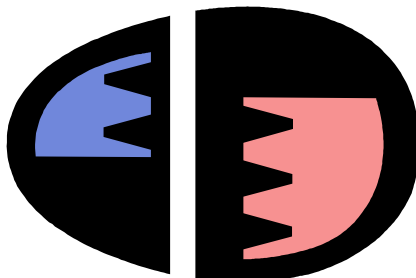
"INCREASING GOOD;
ACTING ON FAITH, TOGETHER"

Members of the social action committee will share thoughts and experiences about the power of group collaboration for putting faith into action.

27 March

"HE IS NOT HERE"

Easter is either a focus on the "Risen Lord" or on bunnies and chicks and candy. Is there an alternative that is inclusive enough for Unitarian Universalists? This Easter service will include the Flower Communion. The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Christy Clark Hutton will be the Worship Associate.



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. Bill Clark is the coordinator.

March 6: GREG GRUPE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR THE SOPHOMORE CLASS AT HICKMAN HIGH SCHOOL, WILL DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF YOUTH AT RISK.

March 13: RICK GAINES, CHIEF JUVENILE OFFICER FOR BOONE COUNTY, WILL LEAD THE DISCUSSION.

March 20: KRISTA BARNETT, AN OFFICER OF THE BOONE COUNTY JJC WILL LEAD THE DISCUSSION.

March 27: BETTY COOK ROTTMANN WILL TELL US ABOUT HER 60 YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT WITH THE NORA STEWART MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL.

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).

MINISTER'S MONTHLY MUSINGS

SPRING FEVER . .

Henry David Thoreau wrote:

*I have an appointment with the Spring.
She comes to the window to wake me
and I go forth an hour or two earlier than usual.
What is the use of a house
if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?*

Our appointment with Spring is still ahead, even though the March equinox is upon us. We don't get a chance to see the fullness of spring until the end of April. We can depend upon the daffodils and forsythia to come to our windows to awake us. Yet the fullness of the planet's splendor is still off in the distant, teasing us with spring fever. As the planet begins to show us its bounty, we are reminded of the frailty of it all. Thoreau was one of the first environmentalists who posed the question about our occupying it with dignity – human and ecological. His Unitarian values are instilled in our religious and spiritual consciousness. Let us celebrate the health of our planet as we journey toward being a Green Sanctuary in the months ahead. Let us also hope we only suffer spring fever.

Peace and Love,
Bill.



DISCOVER UU SESSION

Church Administrator Kathie Bergman and Rev. Bill Haney will conduct a Tuesday evening session on Unitarian Universalism, the story of this church, and issues of stewardship and membership. If you recently joined the church, or are thinking seriously about joining soon, you are urged to consider this important overview of our tradition and what it means to be a member of this church. The session will be March 22, 2005 from 7-9 p.m. Call the church office if we can expect you to attend, and also, let us know if you will need childcare.

Lake Geneva UU Summer Assembly
July 3-9, 2005

Creativity

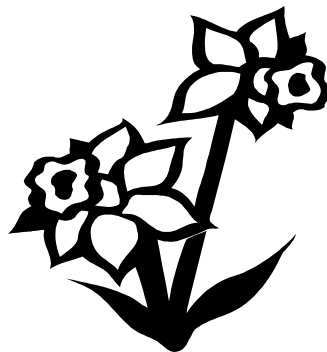
Central to Our Hearts & Souls

For over 60 years, UUs have been gathering at Lake Geneva Summer Assembly in Wisconsin. UUs come from all over the country and beyond to share a week of spiritual renewal and celebration. There is something for everyone. For more information visit website www.lgsauu.org or email lgsa@uua.org or phone 513/681-8444

FLOWER COMMUNION

Each Easter, we celebrate what is known as the Flower Communion. This is a celebration unique to our Unitarian Universalist tradition. In the early part of the 20th century, the Czech Unitarian minister Norbert Capek began the tradition in Prague. He felt the need for a celebration that was sufficiently neutral for his diverse congregation – Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants and Jews. Knowing members of the congregation came from various religious backgrounds, he felt that flowers would be a unifying symbol, bringing all the people together with a

sense of beauty. Later, during the occupation by the Nazis, Capek was arrested because of his belief in religious and political freedom values and died in a concentration camp. We continue the celebration at the Easter service in his memory, in the service of freedom, and as a symbol of new life in our midst. Bring a flower blossom to the service, place it in a basket among all the other flowers at the beginning of the service, and receive a gift from a stranger at the conclusion of the Easter worship service.



Rev. Haney

President's Article

At the congregational meeting in April we will adopt a budget and elect trustees for the next church year. The canvass and budget process are already underway. Soon past president Rebecca Graves and other members of the Nominating Committee will be contacting recruits for the board. Whether or not you are recruited, you may wonder exactly what it is that the board does.

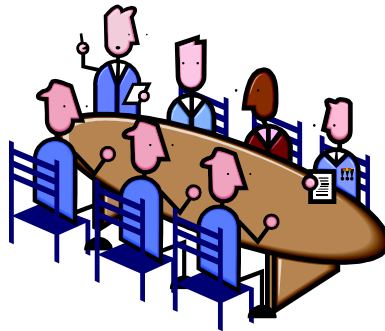
In a nutshell, the board oversees, monitors and manages the business and affairs of the church. It develops plans and goals for the future. It reports to the membership on the activities and financial status of the church. That may sound like a lot to do! It is, and it isn't. Since the board transitioned to being a policy board many tasks are delegated to committees, councils, and task forces. Mostly the board receives reports, makes decisions, and fits all the pieces that make up the church into the big picture of our mission and goals for the future. Because of the interdependent volunteer network in our church the work of keeping the church running is shared by many people. Many hands make light work.

It's not always easy for the Nominating Committee to fill all the trustee slots. I have some ideas about why that might be. One is fear that it is going to be a huge time commitment. It's not. The board meets once a month for two hours—and we almost always end on time! Before meetings, there are reports to read. There is a retreat in the early part of the year. When projects or tasks come up, board members can choose to participate, but don't have to. From what I gather, the workload is

much less arduous than before the switch to being a policy board. Another is fear of being too unfamiliar with all the workings of the church to be able to do the job. I think all board members feel they have a lot to learn. Fortunately, Bill and Kathie are ex officio board members. Their combined knowledge of the church covers just about everything and they are wonderfully patient in orienting and educating new board members. I suspect some people also fear that being on the board isn't much fun. That's not been my experience. Board discussions are lively, touch on just about every area of church life, and are sprinkled with wit.

Why say "yes" to being on the board? The obvious reasons are that somebody's got to do it and we should all pitch in and do our part to sustain and build the programs and community that mean so much to us. But, like many of my experiences here, I feel I've gotten more than I've given. I've enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow board members, gained insight into my own beliefs and values, met just about everybody in the congregation during my turns as Board Welcomer on Sunday mornings, learned about organizational structures, finally figured out how to lock the front door, enriched my understanding of Unitarian Universalism, and developed a rudimentary knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order. Who knows what you could gain from being on the Board? Who knows what you could give? If given the opportunity to find out, don't pass it up!

Leslie Luchene
Board President



From the desk of the Church Administrator:

Have you ever browsed the church's website? Did you know that you can find church newsletters, Sunday sermons, and upcoming events listed there? And we are working on getting a better calendar! Visit www.uuchurch.net and see for yourself! Thanks goes to Larry Dorman, webmaster, for his unending assistance!

Kathie Bergman



Focus on UUs

By the time you read this, the canvass will be all over but the shouting—which will happen at the Just Desserts party on March 5. I hope all of you can make it. We decided last year that it would be a lot more fun to have a party **after** the work was over, rather than before. We had a good time then, and we plan to have a good time again.

In the meantime, the Generosity Team has been doing a lot more than running the canvass and throwing an occasional party. Over the last two years, we have held five focus groups and a “focus potluck”. We plan two more “specialty” focus groups this spring, one for people with young children, and one for our YRUU group. We thought you might be interested in what the participants have said about our church and its programs.

One question asked was, “What about our church makes you most proud?” There were multiple answers, but the ones that recurred most often were our diverse backgrounds, our social action projects, our leadership (Board and staff), the creativity of our members, the opportunity for personal growth, the chances to be involved in our group efforts (everything from work days to lay led services), and our ethics. The **overwhelming winner**, though, was that this is a welcoming place, a home, a safe haven.

We also asked, “What programs and activities of the church are most important to



you?” This is a lot harder to summarize in few enough words to fit into the newsletter. I have an entire legal-size page on this one. The ones mentioned most often were perhaps predictable: The Forum, Sunday services, Youth and Adult Religious Education, the covenant groups. The Caring Committee was mentioned a number of times as well, with appreciation expressed to those in our church who volunteer their time to offer comfort in times of illness and personal disaster. Our rituals were also mentioned often as very important—the Water Ceremony, Flower Ceremony, Christmas Eve service, the Benediction, Joys and Concerns, and of course ... the coffee hour.

The most important question, though, had to do with our vision for this church. We asked what people would like to see the church doing in the future. I can’t even begin to list all of them. This list ran to three legal-size pages!! The

dreams expressed for the church covered an amazing range of possibilities. Many focused on church-wide social action projects, with a wish expressed several times that we might work with other churches and organizations on these, and that we might become more visible in our social action. Some were specifically financial—wishes that we could raise the salaries of our staff and provide them with basic benefits, that we should pay our Fair Share to our national and district UU organizations, that we should be able to hire a sexton or janitorial service, that we could develop “coffee houses” and an art gallery. Others would be low cost, but need additional volunteer effort, such as resuming our Circle Suppers, where someone hosts a formal potluck for a few people from the church.

Some of our visions are already in place, and others are in the planning stage. Others ... *depend on the outcome of this canvass*. My dream is that the calendar of pledged days should fill with yellow and spill over onto the floor. We can make it happen, but only by working together. We are family. We depend on each other. How far have you extended your hand?

Barbara Carter
Chair Generosity Team

Caring Committee Announces

Betty Acree will be the Caring Assistant in March. 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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our heartfelt condolences go to Caya and Rachel Tanski. Rachel's father passed away end of January. Our heartfelt condolences also to Kyna Byerly Duke who lost her grandfather, and Barb Montgomery who lost a dear aunt.

Congratulations to Alan and Hillary Tomhave on the birth of their daughter Aidan Nia on December 29. They were able to bring their baby home from the hospital on February 15, but Aidan still needs oxygen and is not fully stable yet. Our ongoing thoughts and prayers are with the Tomhave family.



We celebrate with Andrea Gabrielson and her husband who are expecting a baby, Julie Baka whose brother-in-law is back in the U.S. after a year's tour of duty in Iraq, and Joe Murphy and his family as Joe is back home after his year with the National Guard.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Chuck Roberts who underwent surgery and is, as of this writing, at Rusk Rehab and in good spirits. Chuck is expected to be back home by March.

We are glad to see Anne Robins at church from time to time and hope she can keep her good spirits up for a long time to come. We are thinking of Barbie Reid and her family as they are going through a difficult transition of separation, and of David Rosman whose mother is not doing well.

If you need assistance or know of someone who does, please contact the Caring Assistant for March, Betty Acree.

Jan Swaney and Allie Gassmann, Co-chairs

Social Action Reports

Thanks for having a "Guest" at your table...

Thanks to all who contributed to the UU Service Committee's annual "Guest at Your Table" fundraiser. We received \$881.35 from 28 contributions. The UUSC thanks you.

The January *Faith-To-Action Collection*

resulted in a check for \$356 donated by the church to Access Arts. We know they will use it well. In addition, participation in a *Special Collection* enabled the church to send a check for over \$1,300 to the UUSC to help provide tsunami relief. Thanks to all who participated in these outreach efforts.
—the Social Action Committee



BIBLE STUDY

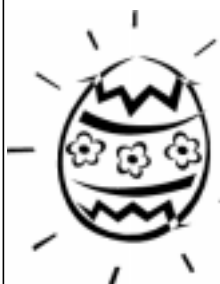
First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m. at the church. Open to all.

YRUU EASTER BRUNCH

What's a U.U. Easter without the YRUU EASTER BRUNCH?

NOTHING!

As always, we'll be asking for donations before and after March Services. Please join us for brunch after the Easter Service!



**On Sunday, March 6, please join with
The Welcoming Congregation Committee
between the service and the potluck
to celebrate the results of a year's efforts**

**A key & ribbon-cutting ceremony
to welcome The Center Project to
our renovated Social Justice Office**

Tours of the new office

**Unveiling our new
Welcoming Congregation
designation poster**



Cake & ice cream to celebrate

**Formation of our Interweave (UUs
for LGBT concerns) chapter**

See you there!

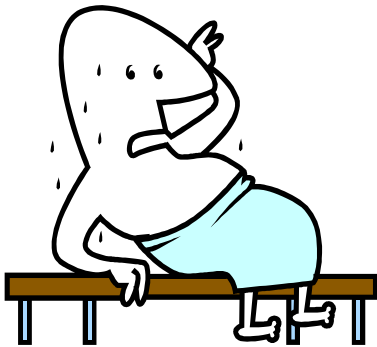
Spring is Almost Here – in the Memorial Garden!

Even though I know winter isn't quite done with us, seeing daffodil leaves beginning to push their way out of the ground this past week has put me in mind of gardening! Last year, some new landscaping and planting was done in and around the Church's Memorial Garden. We need to continue our efforts this year to make the Garden the most beautiful, welcoming place it can be! Spring-flowering bulbs, additional



shrubs, ornamental trees and perennial plants will all enhance the Memorial Garden and add to everyone's enjoyment of this special area. Donations of money, plants, or your time are needed. If you would like to join the Memorial Garden Committee to help develop the Garden and plan for its future, or simply to make a gift of your time or money to the Garden, contact Jeanne Murphy.

Men's Spring Equinox Sweat March 19, 2005



A chance to reconnect with yourself, other men, the natural world. For further details contact Peter Holmes or Evan Prost.



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.

Conversations, Etc. - March 9, 2005

Conversations, Etc. will meet as usual for a brown bag lunch on Wednesday, March 9th at 12:00 at the church. Beverages will be provided. Bring a snack to share if you care to. We visit while we eat lunch. Meetings feature a planned speaker or discussion which begins about 12:30. Telephone calls are made by Susie Anand as a reminder of the meeting. If you would like to be included among those who receive telephone calls, please let us know.

The featured speaker this month will be member Alice Anderson. Alice has tested recipes for her cookbook on the preparation and cooking of Greek food. Alice is a native of the island of Corfu. She tested recipes for the cookbook, sought and found a publisher, and has been active in publicizing the book. All are invited to come hear her interesting stories.

Direct any questions to Roberta Jones, our Moderator, or to Sue Bader, the Recorder/ Publicity person. Betty Cook Rottmann serves as Program Chair.

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, March 13, 2005.**

FUNdraising Committee News

Thanks to all who helped and attended, the Founders' Day Dinner fundraiser was a great success - we moved almost \$600 closer to our FY goal of \$3,500!

Our next effort will be the Services Silent Auction from March 13 - April 17th. I am thinking of offering a Ghirardelli Double Fudge Cake. Rev. Haney says he will auction off a sermon (the winning bidder picks the topic). If you would like to donate a service to the Services Silent Auction, please email me or call me. Some other items which have sold in the past were: computer tune-up, carpentry help, yard clean-up, birthday parties for kids and exotic dinners for ten. Please think about it and let me know.

Marianne Erickson, Chair Fundraising



UUA Central Midwest District District Assembly 2005

*Creating Beloved Community:
The Challenge and the Promise*

April 15-17 at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington Heights, IL.

Registration Information is available in the Church Administrator's Office or register online at www.regonline.com/20204

The Board of Trustees invites members to attend and participate at the CMwD District Assembly as a delegate from our church. Talk to the Church Administrator, the Minister, or a member of the Board of Trustees if you are interested. Also look for a handout at the Information Table.

Announcing: Single Burial Space Available for Purchase from UU Church at Memorial Park Cemetery \$775 This space can be traded for another space in the cemetery in order to purchase a second adjacent plot or to choose your preferred location. Phone for more information.

WUUrld's 2005 WhaleCoast Alaska

Five Alaska UU fellowships invite other UUs from "outside" for our UU eco-spiritual/intercultural programs in July, 2005. See the *REAL* Alaska! Stay in UU homes in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka and enjoy discussions and dinners with Alaska UUs. See whales, sea otters, sea lions, seals, bears, moose, caribou, wolves, Dall sheep, puffins, eagles and other birds in the wild from the Arctic Ocean to the Inside Passage in the south. Visit Denali's Mt. McKinley and Kenai's fjords and glaciers. See totem poles, native arts, dancing, story-telling. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, leaders. Visit website www.wuurld.org, e-mail dick@wuurld.org, or phone toll-free 1-888-998-8753 for a brochure. Reservations due April 1.

UU're Home

(formerly Homecomings)

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can help you fulfill your dream. For 25 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

The directory is published every year in April. For a copy of the 2005 directory, please send a check for \$18 to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806. UU're Home has just launched a new web site at www.UUreHome.com, which includes about half of the listings. Entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added.

UU NIAGARA EXPERIENCE July 17-20, 2005

If you have ever wanted to visit Niagara Falls or if it is already one of your favorite places, this is a chance to experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while in the company of UUs from around the country. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit our web site : <http://www.uunex.net/> Email : info@uunex.net Telephone : (716) 791-4453

THE SEARCHLIGHT

The Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd,
Columbia, MO 65201-6132



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US Postage Paid
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65201
Permit No. 81

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

FIRST SUNDAY

POTLUCK LUNCH

March 6, 2005



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

Bring a dish to share!

**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*