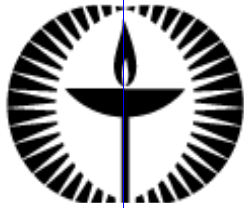


THE SEARCHLIGHT

Volume 46, Issue 10

Summer 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.

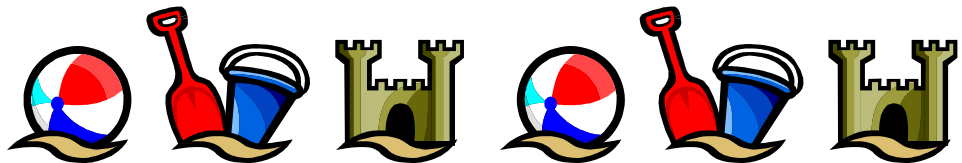


Mark Your Calendar - Summer Celebrations

Summer Celebration & BBQ
In honor of our newest members

Saturday, June 23
4 pm until we drop

Everyone is welcome for this family-friendly gathering. Bring what you want to grill and a lawn chair. Sides, desserts, and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided.



2nd Annual Laid Back Labor Day

Monday, Sept. 3
4 pm - 7 pm

Gather near the church meadow for community and connection. Bring a potluck dish to share, lawn chairs, games, music makers, and lots of joy.

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Visit us at uuchurch.net!



Worship Services Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Our summer services are lay led rather than minister led. Lay ministry enriches us all and helps maintain the tradition of lay ministry as a vibrant part of our church life. Rev. Haney will return to the pulpit on the first Sunday of September. Rebecca Graves and Christy Hutton are the summer service organizers.

June 03 COME EXPLORE SILENCE

Rebecca Graves, service coordinator

Silence can be longed for or dreaded. Come gather to experience silence and also to share the good & bad of it in our lives.

June 10 WHAT DOES YOUR CHURCH DO?

Scott Denson, service coordinator

A service about what the church does for its members and friends in their personal life; and what the church inspires and enables its members and friends to do for the community and for the larger world.

June 17 ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE

Marianne Erickson, service coordinator

For pets and animal friends! This is a special outdoor (unless raining) service for friends and members of the UU Church AND their household pets. Also, this is a service for UU members and friends who have lost a special pet and for those who are hoping for a special pet in the future. In this service we will allow introduction of individual pets and present special pet recognitions for each beloved pet who attends or is mentioned at the service.

June 24 THE ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY: A SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Barbara Carter, service coordinator

Join us in a joyful celebration of the light and warmth of community as we explore the Elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water, and what they can teach of us about living with one another. Children, dancing, singing and noise are all welcome.

July 01 BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY

Brian Bowles, service coordinator

What does it mean to live religiously? Members of the BYOT workshop present the fruits of their efforts to articulate responses to key questions of UU spirituality.

July 08 WHY OUR LANGUAGE MATTERS

Stephanie Dorman, service coordinator

What images flash through your mind when you hear “farmer”, “scientist”, “nurse?” How about “man a booth”, “wheelchair-bound,” or “over the hill?” In this service, we will explore the power of language and contemplate its potential effects on our attempts to communicate with one another.



to our 2007 graduates!

The church website: uuchurch.net



Worship Services
Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Continued from page 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| July 15 | <p>THE SPIRITUALITY OF HUMANISM
 David Rosman, service coordinator
 For more than 15 years, David has been on a quest to answer the ultimate question - "Can a Jewish, agnostic, humanist Unitarian find spirituality?" What exactly is spirituality? The answer is not "42". Sorry, Douglas.</p> |
| July 22 | <p>UU TENT REVIVAL
 Larry Lile and Qhyrrae Michaelieu, service coordinators
 UU tent revival is inspiring folk music and invigorating discussion outdoors. Come and be renewed!</p> |
| July 29 | <p>LIVING THE WELCOMING CONGREGATION
 Christy Hutton and Stephanie Dorman, service coordinators
 Join Terry Transgender, Homer Homosexual, Harry and Helen Heterosexual, and Beth Bisexual in this interactive refresher session about what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation.</p> |
| Aug. 05 | <p>CHALLENGING THE CHALLENGING
 Howard Hutton, service coordinator
 Being a UU may become something we do as a challenge of its own and just that becomes enough. Though UUs as a group may be personally challenging to the society around us by doing little more than existing, and while we may even take more action to change the unfinished social systems we find ourselves in, we can probably do more. How can we think better and what should we do?</p> |
| Aug. 12 | <p>HOW UU BECAME THE FIRST MODERN AMERICAN RELIGION
 Will Madden, service coordinator
 Did you know that the big story of UU evolution took place in the 20th century? There we broke new ground; we truly and totally embraced democracy and diversity as the cornerstone of our faith and tradition. Come find out how it happened.</p> |
| Aug. 19 | <p>RADIATING HOSPITALITY
 Tammy Jones, service coordinator
 How can one of the most ancient and basic spiritual virtues also be something that is so profound and transforming? Radical hospitality is an important model for revolutionizing today's congregations that live amid diversity and human need. It begins, not in the "we" but in the "me;" not in the church, but in the individual. It is a power that radiates from the inside to the out. It is a deeply personal invitation to become a part of a deeper, more meaningful spirituality.</p> |
| Aug. 26 | <p>WATER CEREMONY
 Naoma Powell, service coordinator
 We celebrate the traditional blending of the waters in this worship service. Bring a sample of water from your summer travels. It's the beginning of a new church year!</p> |

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.

June 03 Columbia Police Department Officer J. Haden Pitman will update us on the problem of identity theft and how to both avoid it and what to do if you are victimized.

June 10 David Sapp will invite you to visit the Boone Junction Historical Village at Boone County Historical Society. He'll take you on a brief visit to Maplewood House, the Gordon Cabin and the recently restored Easley Store.

June 17 Irene Haskins, the longtime Tribune columnist, will visit. Who knows what her topic will be? She may not know until she stands to speak!

June 24 Bryon Scott will combine two seemingly different topics – community theater at Maplewood Barn and international journalism.

We're asking our state representatives and state senator to speak to us in July or August, updating us on the goings-on in Jefferson City in the past year and to give us an outline for the future.

Minister's Musings

STROLLING TOWARD SEPTEMBER ...

This, our summer edition of the Searchlight, brings to a close the formal church year. All of the so many good things that happened in the life of the church are behind us now. Looking forward, we will have the summer worship services and a few activities at the church. But for the most part, church life slows down for the summer months. We each withdraw into our private lives with family and trips and yard work. The words of the Rev. Elizabeth Tarbox come to mind:

Summer is truly an article of faith and an act of God. I pray that your summer will be what you want most from the season. I wish for you warm breezes if you sail, high breakers if you surf, an unlimited supply of No. 30 sun block if you bask, and coals that light with one match if you barbecue. I wish for you an occasional hour with a trashy novel and a butterscotch sundae, and an evening without bug bites. And I wish for you love, conversation, and a summer of joy that matches your memories of what summer should be.

We give thanks for times of recreation. Bless us Spirit of Life through all the days of our summer and be with us as we stroll slowly toward September.

Peace and Love,
Bill

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



Social Action Report

For 2007, as of this writing, \$127 has been taken to the Central Missouri Food Bank Pantry to help provide needed food for children and parents in our area. Many people would say “thank you” to all of your children, and to all of you, who provided the money.

The SAC received a letter from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee dated May 4, 2007 which reads in part: “Please thank the members of your congregation for supporting the work of UUSC with the Justice Sunday gift of \$479. Your generous contribution to our work will promote human rights and social justice. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of people in the U.S. and around the world.”

The April Faith to Action collection totaled \$402.00 to benefit the Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation.



UUs Down By the Riverside

Saturday, June 2 - Sunday, June 3, 2007
At Katfish Katy's Campground
on the Missouri River at Huntsdale

Come and go as needed. For bicyclists, the campsite is on the Katy Trail 8 miles from Columbia.

www.tranquility.net/~katfish/KATFISH_KATYS/Index.html

6-8 pm Saturday - Supper/
 Cookout
 8 pm Saturday - Campfire
 Singalong
 Full Moon Boat Rides, volleyball,
 croquet, games, fishing, etc.
 8-10 am Sunday - Pancake
 Breakfast
 10:30 am Sunday - Riverside Service



Volunteers needed for: Sat. supper, games and kids activities, Sunday breakfast, Sunday Service, set up and clean up. (Please contact Peter Holmes)

Please sign up in the Greeting Area so we can plan appropriately. Start working now on your performance (stories, poems, songs, skits) for the Singalong!

We are on the web! [uuchurch.net!](http://uuchurch.net)



What's New at UU?

Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet at noon at the church, Wednesday June 13. Susie Liu will discuss China. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Roberta Jones if you have questions.

Green Friday

The Green Friday movies and presentations event is taking a summer break. We will be back in action in September.

Meditation in Nature on June 17th

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

Second Saturdays

Second Saturdays will continue to meet over the summer, so mark your calendars for June 9, July 14 and August 11. Details will be announced by e-mail. If you're not on the Second Saturdays e-mail list and want to be, please contact us at secondsaturdays@uuchurch.net. 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.

The Sound of UU Music

Many thanks to all who sang with us this past year, or contributed their talents by playing during services. The UU Singers (teenagers and adults) will be starting up again in August with our traditional pot-luck/first rehearsal on **Wednesday, August 15**. Pot-luck will start at 6:00 and we will start on music for the fall afterwards. If you can carry a tune, don't be shy – you don't need to be a soloist, or even to be experienced in reading music – we spend the time necessary in rehearsal to help everyone learn their part. Regular rehearsals start the next week on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. downstairs in the Centering Room and we sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month - September 9 and 23, October 14, etc. We really need all voice parts, men and women. We would love to have you join us. Desi Long, Music Director

Monthly Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will not meet during the summer, but will resume in September.

June 17 is the Animal Blessing Service -- for pets and animal friends! The service leader is Marianne

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.

What's New at UU?

Erickson. Please bring your pet, a memory of a past pet, a hope for a new pet, a bowl (for water) for your pet, a blanket and a lawn chair (for you). We will meet in the backyard of the church, underneath the deck. If it is raining, we'll meet in the sanctuary.

If you can, please bring a bag of dry cat or dog food (your pet's brand) to donate to Second Chance Animal Sanctuary for feeding of foster pets under their care. See you on Fathers' Day morning!

UU Archivists Gatherings

Tuesdays weekly, starting June 26
Anytime between 10:30 am - 3 pm

We have loose photographs, newspaper articles, and the memories of 56 years of church life stuck in nooks and crannies throughout the building. Let's gather these together and organize them so they can tell our story more effectively. All ages and ability levels are invited to help. The advice and/or assistance of professionals will be greatly appreciated. We will keep going until we are done, and then plan a regular schedule for updates.

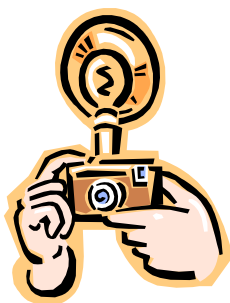
If you have items to donate, now is the time! There will be a collection box under the coat-rack until June 26.

Stephanie Dorman

Earth-centered group gatherings

We welcome any who are involved in an Earth-centered religious practice at a serious level. Our goal is to deepen our own spiritual connection and exploration, and to share ideas and knowledge. We intend to go deeply into our own work at a rapid pace.

Meetings: **6:00 pm, 3rd Saturdays, at the Columbia UU Church.** To bring: a potluck dish to share, music makers, Tarot cards, or anything else



that helps you connect spiritually, and a willingness to explore yourself deeply.

Our summer meetings:

June 16: Ritual forms: How do you do ritual? Can we start a sharing of ritual practice, so that our group rituals can become richer and more varied?

Planning for June 24 service: A basic plan is in place. For those who are interested, we will flesh this out. Bring ideas, especially those that will help create a child-friendly service about the lessons we can learn from the Elements about community.

July 21: Meditation practices: What is yours? How can we incorporate them into this group? There was a great deal of interest in engaging in guided meditation with a committed group of people at our first meeting. Let's look at what we will do with this.

August 18: Scrying and divination: Many of us practice forms of scrying and/or divination. What works for you, and what doesn't? Bring tools that take you to that place, and be willing to talk about some of the experiences you have had.

For more information, contact: Barbara Carter or Alan Arnold.

Help = Free Stuff

Free food and a free shirt are yours if you volunteer to staff Interweave's Children's Activity Center at PrideFest on June 9 at Stephen's Park. This free-play and craft area is an opportunity to meet and work with parents and children; it is not a baby-sitting service. Contact Stephanie Dorman to sign-up for a 1.5 hr. shift.



Proposed By-Law Change: The Path to Membership

What keeps you coming to our church since your initial visit? Is it networking with like-minded folks? A religious education program that matches your goals for your children? Services that appeal to your intellectual and spiritual sides? Knowing that you are involved in the same church tradition as the guy who did the *The Twilight Zone*? Maybe it's the great coffee?

How did you discover what appeals to you about church? In my case, I bellied right up to the table and sampled most of what I could see – the FUNdraising committee, pizza at Shakespeares on the last Sunday of the month with Reverend Haney, choir, Writer's Group, Mark Schmidt's covenant group, the toddler's playgroup, etc. Perhaps you started with regular attendance at the Forum discussions, or volunteered to aide in the Potter room for a month. However you made your way into the life of church, it was most likely self-directed or with some basic steering from a friend or family member. It was most likely NOT through a formal process.

Do we need a formal process? That – in my estimation - is a key question behind the proposed by-law change requiring potential new members to participate in a regularly scheduled new member class before signing the membership book. Attendance in a class like "Discover

UU" is an opportunity for those who are interested in our church to learn about our past and present, and it allows them to determine if they want a stake in where we are headed.

To some this may sound like communion classes or some form of being indoctrinated into the church. I see them as a means for finding out what you are about to get yourself into. Is that the same thing as being indoctrinated? I am still mulling this question, and I invite you to help me develop an informed opinion.

The Board of Trustees is planning to hold a vote on this by-law change in the fall. Now is the time to raise those important considerations and to share your thoughts with your fellow members and with the church leadership. Leave me a note in the Congregational Development Council mailbox across from Kathie's office anytime. I will be making Council reports to the Board in June and September, and I am happy to compile the comments and share the input with the Board.

Stephanie Dorman, convener
Congregational Development Council

UU Dinner Club End of Year Report

More than 30 members and substitutes enjoyed the May grand finale of the UU Dinner Club this year! A great big hug and thanks for all of the work Valerie Sauers put into making this year successful, and she was there organizing and putting the final touches on the dinner, too.

The UU Dinner Club is more than just a bunch of Unitarian-Universalists getting together each month to enjoy good cooking and good conversations! It is a way for NEW MEMBERS to plug in to get acquainted with the congregation. Just meeting someone is not knowing them; you can really know someone when you know his/her interests and passions!

At the heart of the concept of eating in members' homes is the opportunity to get to know each other

on this deeper level and to include new members in the process. To ensure that NEW MEMBERS can be added to the UU Dinner Club, we will reserve places to be added during the year.

Looking to the coming year, we will be actively recruiting more diversity in the UU Dinner Club. We need more young parents, more singles, and more new members before we can actually accomplish this goal of really getting the congregation acquainted with each other.

If YOU are reading this and thinking you would like to be involved next year--October 2007 thru May 2008, CALL or e-mail NOW to get on the membership or substitute lists.

Linda Lou Brown

**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri
Sunday, April 22, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Blower, President of the Board of Trustees at approximately 11:45 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Forty-five voting members were required for a quorum. There were 56 voting members present. *(Documents in support of the proposals on the agenda and all annual reports were distributed to those present and are attached to the official Minutes of this meeting.)*

1. Election of 2007/2008 Board of Trustees:

A motion was made, seconded and then approved to accept the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees: Stephen Blower, President; Shannon Dennis, Treasurer; Kakie Love, Barbara Carter, Tammy Jones, Betty Acree, Trustees; and new trustees Bill Clark, Walter Gassmann and Valerie Sauers.

2. Vote on 2007/2008 budget as submitted:

There was a motion and a second to accept the 2007/2008 budget as submitted. Todd Iveson, the current Chair of the Finance Committee, led the ensuing discussion. Comments were made that pledges were up by approximately \$20,000 and that the budget included money for housekeeping, as well as an increase in the staff salaries. Payment of UUA and CMwD dues were included at 50% of full fair share. A comment was made about trying to increase income by increasing the frequency of renting our building to outside groups. **The motion to adopt the budget was approved.**

3. Proposal to amend the Planned Giving Policy (*an addendum to the current Bylaws*):

A motion was made and seconded to approve, as the first of two congregational votes, an amendment to the Planned Giving Policy/Endowment Policy as currently written. Todd Iveson explained the amendment and answered questions. Adoption of the proposal will separate the Planned Giving Policy from the Endowment Policy. The Endowment Policy will remain a part of the official Bylaws and can only be changed by the congregation, at two separate meetings held at least two months apart but within one year. **The motion was approved.**

4. Proposed By-Law change: Article III, Section1: Membership.

The proposal for the change to the Bylaws would add the requirement that persons joining the church demonstrate a commitment to the church by participating in the regularly scheduled new member classes. Stephen Blower explained the rationale for requesting the change. He clarified that a vote on this issue would **not** be taking place today but at the next congregational meeting, tentatively to be held in the fall of 2007. Members were encouraged to discuss this issue with each other and members of the Board as well as the minister and the administrator.

5. Annual Reports:

- A. President: Report submitted/accepted/attached to Official Minutes.
- B. Treasurer: Report submitted/accepted/attached to Official Minutes.
- C. Minister: Report submitted/accepted/attached to Official Minutes.
- D. Director YRE: Report submitted/accepted/attached to Official Minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Bader, Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Fellowship Opportunities

An invitation from the Midwest UU Summer Assembly

Do you have vacation time and no plans? Are you interested in a week long UU experience, either for yourself, yourself and a loved one, or something for the entire family? Have you ever heard of and wanted to go to the UU Summer Assembly in southern Wisconsin? This may be your chance. We are relocating and this year the assembly will be held at the Olympia resort in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. You are invited to join us in our community during the first week in July as we embrace a period of change and growth. Please visit MUUSA.ORG for further details and a printable registration form, but hurry, time and space (for this) are limited. Check with your church's Administrator for brochures received by mail.

Summer WomanSpirit Retreat, August 3-5, 2007

Central Midwest District Women and Religion Committee and the Summer WomanSpirit Committee invite you to attend the Summer Woman Spirit gathering at Ronora Lodge in Wateruliet, Michigan. Our theme is "Sacred Circle – Haven for Discovery" Contact the CmWD for details or look for brochures at your church.

From the Desk of the Church Administrator

The church office will be open for part of each work day during the summer months. You are welcome to stop by to visit the church but call to confirm that it is open. Thanks to everyone for making my job a pleasure!

Kathie Bergman

Sunday Potluck Lunch will resume on September 2, 2007



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

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).

THE SEARCHLIGHT
Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132



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**Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth
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2006-2007 Board of Trustees

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Kakie Love
Barbara Carter



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