

# THE SEARCHLIGHT

Volume 47, Issue 3

November 2007

*The Searchlight* is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, Missouri 65201. It is published from September through June. Submissions can be made by email to [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto: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.



## Congregational Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary  
12:15 p.m. on Sunday, November 4, 2007

Members are hereby notified of a special Congregational Meeting. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary while members enjoy the potluck lunch. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

### Agenda-

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vote on proposal to amend the Bylaws: Section on Endowment Fund-Planned Giving Policy**

*"A member shall become a voting member 60 days from the date of joining."*  
---Bylaws, Article III, Section 2

## Thanksgiving Pastry Auction

*Sunday, November 18th*  
*10 a.m.- 11:50 a.m.*

Come join in the fun and excitement of the annual Thanksgiving Pastry Auction on **Sunday, November 18th** in the greeting area. You won't see such a beautiful array of pastries anywhere else in Columbia, including the Upper Crust Bakeries! Prospective bakers are urged to sign up early and receive their pastry container for easy transport and transfer to the lucky bidder.

This FUNdraiser benefits the general operating budget and helps to cover the difference between actual income and expenses. Approximately \$2,500 is needed this year to cover this gap. Your interest and support of the FUNdraising efforts at church are REALLY appreciated.



### Inside this issue:

Worship Services	P. 2
Forum Discussions	P. 3
Social Action	P. 4
What's New?	P. 6
UU One Read	P. 10

Visit us at [uuchurch.net](http://uuchurch.net)!



## Worship Services Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

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

04 Nov “What We Share With One Another”

We begin with our children for the opening of the worship service. We will hear a story presented by our Director of Religious Education, Lisa Fritsche about sharing, since we celebrated Halloween with the UNICEF “trick or treat,” and will begin our UUSC “Guest at Your Table” collection. Our monthly pot-luck luncheon will follow the worship service. All are invited to attend.

11 Nov “Remember Us”

The recent scandals concerning Walter Reed Hospital and Iraq veterans not receiving the kind of care they need, this “Veterans Day” service will look at the loss of our covenant with those who served our nation. The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Rebecca Graves will be the Worship Associate. Following the service, an orientation session for visitors will occur in the minister’s study.

18 Nov Layed Worship Service

25 Nov “Heartfelt Gratitude”

Thanksgiving is the beginning of the season of family gatherings. As we give thanks for all that we are and have, to what extent are we truly grateful? Leslie Luchene will be the Worship Associate. The Faith-To-Action Collection will be for Planned Parenthood.

## Ministry Announcements

If you’ve attended our Sunday morning worship services, you’ve noticed over the past seven years we have a very viable and important Shared Ministry called “Worship Associates.” Over the years, a number who participated in that program told me how valuable it was for each one’s own spiritual and religious growth. Each Worship Associate has been – and continues to be – valuable to me, as well. The Worship Associates and I are seeking applications to participate in this meaningful program. If you are interested, please contact the church office, me or one of the current Worship Associates, Leslie Luchene, Rebecca Graves or Gregory Brown. Their phone numbers are in the church directory.

As a vital part of our Shared Ministry Program, the third Sunday of each month during the formal church year is devoted to a lay-led worship service. March and April are open for possible commitments. If one of the shared ministry groups you are currently engaged in desires to be a part of this worthwhile aspect of our church life, please contact the minister or the church office as soon as possible. Due to the limited time slots available, it will have to be “first come, first served.”

Reverend Bill Haney

## 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.

Nov. 04 State Senator Chuck Graham will update us on the actions of the Senate in both 2006-06 and what to expect in 2007-08.

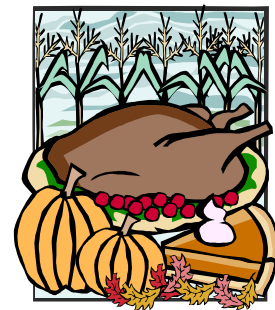
Nov. 11 Bob Beasley returns to visit the Forum.

Nov. 18 Chancellor Brady Deaton, of the University of Missouri will update us on MU's successes and its problems. It is the first visit to the Forum for the Chancellor.

Nov. 25 Holly Hobbs and Robbin Williams will introduce you to the "New Media Network."

## Thanksgiving Dinner

All are invited to share a carry-in/pot-luck Thanksgiving dinner at the church. More details will be provided in Sunday morning announcements and church emails. Be thinking about your favorite dishes that you might want to bring. A sign-up will be posted in the lobby so that we can all plan and make sure that our Thanksgiving favorites are covered!



**Sunday Potluck Lunch  
November 4, 2007  
Everyone is invited!**



**Immediately following the  
worship service in the greeting  
area at the church.  
Bring a dish to share!  
Last names S-Z clean up!**

**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).

## Activities Fairs

Our Activities Fairs are opportunities for members to learn about the efforts of our councils and committees and to sign up for those groups with which we would like to volunteer. Group representatives will be in the greeting area until about 12:30 to meet with you.

Our remaining fairs are:

November 11 – Outreach Council

November 18 - Program Council



## Social Action Report

The Social Action Committee will be sponsoring a local family's Christmas through the Voluntary Action Center again this year. As in the past the Voluntary Action Center will send us the information about the family's household needs and suggested presents for the children. I should have all the information about the family in time to have the gift suggestions, etc. available at church on November 4. Besides presents we will be collecting money to provide a gift certificate from a local grocery store for the family's Christmas dinner. All presents and cash must be in by December 2<sup>nd</sup> as the presents will be wrapped by RE as a service project. Donations of wrapping supplies would also be welcome. The presents and check to the Voluntary Action Center will be taken to the drop off point the next day, so the December 2<sup>th</sup> deadline is a definite one. Look for more information in early November. Many thanks for your support.



Nora Stewart Nursery School expressed gratitude in a letter received last month for the September Faith to Action donations which totaled \$588.

The Special Collection benefiting UUA on Association Sunday totaled \$426.

### Next Faith to Action Collection for Planned Parenthood – November 25

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century a brave woman named Margaret Sanger published a manual on contraception called *Family Limitations*. She was a

nurse working in the slums of Manhattan and promoted the cause of birth control. She founded the American Birth Control League in 1921 which evolved into Planned Parenthood in 1942. Today there are Planned Parenthood facilities in all states. Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri is committed to providing confidential, affordable reproductive health care to all individuals (women and men) regardless of their ability to pay. Their services include all aspects of family planning, preventive health care, screening for STIs and HIV/AIDS, etc. These facilities provide very, very important services to all, but PP does not get much financial help from the federal or state governments. Donations are essential to maintain the quality of health care they provide. Let us be generous!

I'm thankful for food...

As "Thanksgiving" enters our consciousness this month, remember the basics, including having enough money to purchase adequate food for our families. Many in our community do not, especially as the end of each month approaches. In late October, 74 pounds of food from our church were taken to the Central Missouri Food Bank Pantry. They could use much more. Thank you to all who contributed the food; please continue to bring it to the church so we can get it to the Pantry.

The Social Action Committee meets in the Centering Room, lower level of the church, on the second Sunday of the month immediately following the worship service. For more information, contact Wiley Miller, acting chair. Newcomers are welcome!

# Outreach Council

A theme of the Board retreat in September was the growth of our church. I liked hearing one Trustee say she supports growth because she wants to share what we have with others. If you agree, there are many ways that you can support growth of our church and share with the community. The Outreach Council is here to support and encourage efforts by our church membership that extend our boundaries beyond the church walls and into the larger community. Sometimes our objective is to let others know that we exist, which we hope might draw in visitors and grow our church membership. Other times our objective is to strengthen our denominational connection with others in the Central Midwest District or the Unitarian Universalist Association. Sometimes the goal of our outreach effort is to better our local and world communities by raising awareness for and educating others in the social and environmental issues that are central to our UU principles and personal beliefs.

If you are interested in building and improving our relationships with other UUs, our local community, and the world community in which we live, please attend the next **Outreach Council meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 PM**. Refreshments will be served and child care will be provided if needed.



The following are some of the items on the agenda:

- Discuss current and future projects including: Covenant with the Central Midwest District UUA, and St. Louis Association
- Presence at Earth Day, Pride Fest, and other festivals and events in the community
- Hear from Rev. Haney and Kathie Bergman on their Outreach activities
- Learn about the budget cycle as well as how the Council and its groups (including Green Sanctuary, Social Action, YRE Service Projects, and others) can receive financial support, if needed
- Review and discuss the results of the congregational survey that pertain to Outreach Council

Everyone is welcome whether you are a new visitor to the church or a seasoned member. Bring your ideas and be there to support others in our efforts to share what we have and grow the church.

***P.S. Also mark your calendar for the Outreach Council Activities Fair***  
Sunday, Nov. 11th after the worship service  
Questions? Email [outreach@uuchurch.net](mailto:outreach@uuchurch.net)

Corinne Mann  
Outreach Council Convener

## Membership Requirement

As we study the matter of changing our bylaws to require potential new members to attend an orientation class before signing the membership book, we are including some reactions in the newsletter. If you would like to express your opinion, please send a note to Stephanie Dorman at [cdc@uuchurch.net](mailto:cdc@uuchurch.net).

“I enthusiastically support the proposed membership by-law change. UU’s are encouraged to make intelligent decisions for themselves based on accurate information. Choosing UU membership is certainly an important decision in the spiritual life of prospective members. The class teaches what UU-ism is about and says, ‘Now you decide if this is right for you.’ I don’t see this requirement as making people jump through hoops but rather an opportunity to ‘practice what we preach.’”

Kakie Love

# What's New at UU?

## WEBS

Open to any who are involved in an Earth-centered religious practice, our goal is to deepen our own spiritual connection and to share ideas and knowledge. Meetings are at 6:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month at the Columbia UU Church. 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. For more information contact Barbara Carter.

**November 17: Entering the Darkness.** In this time of reflection, what memory calls you? What would you like to change in this next year? Let us explore our inner selves as we prepare for Winter.

**December 15: Field Trip:** Join us for the annual **Winter Solstice celebration**, organized by Peter Holmes and held at Nancy and Nick Spaeder's home. Those of you who have attended before will remember how much fun it is to welcome back the Sun. Dress warmly and flamboyantly.

**December 22, 7 PM:** Sun's Rebirth: A Solstice ritual for the church.

## UUC Men's Group

The UUC Men's Group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 8 a.m. in the Piccadilly Restaurant at the Holiday Inn Select. The group is open to all men. There are no fees and no reservations are necessary. The agenda is an open discussion of whatever is on the minds of those in attendance – and breakfast! Meeting dates this fall are Nov. 10 & 24; and Dec. 8 & 22. For more information contact Sam Anand or Bill Clark.

## Conversations, Etc

Conversations, Etc. will meet Wednesday, November 14 at the church at 10:45 am to carpool to Stephens College Costume Department on Dorsey St. for a tour with Patti Doyle. We will then return to the church at noon for a brown bag lunch. Call Roberta Jones with questions.

## Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet Friday, November 9 at the Formosa Restaurant, 913A East Broadway at 5:30 pm. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel if you have questions.

## Meditation in Nature - November 18

Meet at Gans Creek Wildlife Area every third Sunday of the month from 9 to 10:00 a.m. Build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness. Open to all people who love Nature. Contact Peter Holmes for more information.

## Fair Trade Coffee Sale

With cold weather coming, you will want to have plenty of fair-trade, organic coffee, tea, and hot chocolate on hand! The YUUTs and Green Sanctuary monthly sale will be November 4th, so stop by before or after the service for those items plus our popular chocolate bars. As always, sales support the use of fair trade coffee and tea for our coffee hour, plus the Coming of Age program for our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

## Show Me Laughter!

*"Laughter is the best medicine, but it's not covered by your HMO."*



The SHOW ME LAUGHTER CLUB meets every Thursday, from 7-8pm inside the Centering Room of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

Attendance is **FREE** and open to the public. All are welcome! We do playful laughter exercises that help people in a group turn simulated laughter into hearty free-flowing and rejuvenating laughter!

For more information email [showmelaughter@yahoo.com](mailto:showmelaughter@yahoo.com).

# What's New at UU?

## Food for Thought

On Wednesday, November 7th, the Religious Education Committee will be sponsoring Food for Thought. A spaghetti supper will begin at 6, followed at 6:30 by a showing of old reel-to-reel films. The main attraction is a film from the 1950s on *The Golden Rule*. (Perhaps you saw this film in your elementary school!) Following will be old cartoon films. Tickets are \$2 per person, to cover the cost of the dinner. They will be on sale on November 4th in the Greeting Area, both before and after church.

## Green Friday

The November Green Friday movie will be *Our Daily Bread*. Join us on Friday, November 2nd at 7pm at the UU Church.



Often our Green Friday discussions turn to what could be accomplished if we just worked together. The November movie will take a look at this in an entertaining and unique film. *Our Daily Bread* is a fictional story of Depression era families striving together, uniting as one, with a positive outlook in life. A couple who can't make a go of it in the city decide to leave for the country. Once there, they come across a deserted farm and recruit additional Depression victims to help with the farm, eventually turning the place into a farming commune.

Green Friday is the first Friday of each month. The Green Sanctuary invites everyone to attend this event and enjoy open conversation about it afterwards.

## Open Borders Concert Series

at the Unitarian Universalist Church  
2615 Shepard Blvd. - Columbia, Mo.  
Suggested donation \$12 adults, \$6 for youth 16 and under. Contact Clint Harding.

## Sunday, 11 November - 7 pm

Peter Case: "Mr. Case is a freaking genius" --

Miss V, The Backseat Babe. Do some Googlin' if you need info, I unconditionally guarantee your life will change, for the better, listening to his music. Mine did.

## Sunday, 6 January - 7 pm

Brooks Williams' Mid-Missouri debut: I've had the distinct pleasure of hearing Brooks perform several times over the last 12 years or so....in St. Louis, he's a monster on the fretboard....great lyrics, just take my word, okay?

## Sunday, 20 January - 7 pm

Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart: Ok, so she's Steve's sister, she & Mark right some really genuine stuff, you owe it to yourself to spend a mid-winter's eve enjoying some real music in the confines of our cozy space.

## Friday, 7 March - 8 pm

Jim Scott / Charlie King (split bill)  
This show is co-sponsored by the UU's Green Sanctuary Committee.

## The First Friends program is up and running.

We have scheduled coffee and teas through February 2008. Newcomers, we invite you to come learn more about the UU Church. If you are interested, we will pair you up with an established member of the church to help you get to know our great community. We will meet in the foyer of the church at the times below. If you are an established member who would like to mentor a newcomer, come join us too. Questions? Call Rexanna Ipock-Brown or Barbara Carter.

November 18, 9 am for coffee

January 27, 9 am for coffee

February 24, 4 pm for tea

## Mystery Friends...It's Time to Reveal Yourselves!

The November 4<sup>th</sup> church potluck is the time set for Mystery Friends to introduce themselves. Be sure to attend, and to spend some time with your young friend!

## Put more “Giving” into Thanksgiving

If you are inspired to lend a hand to help provide a Thanksgiving dinner to those in need, please consider the following opportunities:

**Salvation Army** (442-3229) will be providing a holiday meal at Everetts Restaurant again this year. They need volunteers on Thursday, Nov 22 from 10:30 to 12:30 or 12:30 to 2:30. They also need pies (no cream pies), cakes and cookies delivered to the Salvation Army office, 1108 W. Ash on Wednesday, November 21



until 5 pm, or to Everett’s Restaurant on Thanksgiving, before noon.

**Everyone Eats** needs volunteers from noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving dinner at Stephens College Lela Raney Wood Hall. Call 228-2475.

**St Francis House/Lois Bryant Homeless Shelter** also needs volunteers. Call 875-4913 for more information.

## Interweave: UUs for LGBT Concerns

### Lay-led service thanks

“Expunge” and “Fruit of Choice,” two pieces from MU art professor Mark Mueller, are on temporary display in the sanctuary. Mark brought us the stories of his work as part of the Interweave lay-led service on October 21. Many thanks to Dennis Murphy for arranging this presentation.

### “Living as a Welcoming Community” Workshops

To continue educating our congregation and reaching out to our wider community, Interweave chairs Christy Hutton and Stephanie Dorman will offer three workshops to help us live our Welcoming Congregation designation. On Saturday, November 3, the emphasis will be “Back to Basics.” We will meet from 9 am – 1 pm for information, activities, special guest speakers, and fellowship. On January 12, the theme is “Creating Community,” and February 23 will highlight “Contemporary Issues.” These workshops are geared to those 12 and older, of all genders, sexual orientations, and religious inclinations. We hope to reach out to newer church members, those who are questioning long-held beliefs, and interested folks outside the church. Registration forms are available in the greeting area, or you may register at the door.

### “Understanding Larry Craig: The Tearoom Closet and the Breastplate of Righteousness”

In conjunction with the Mid Missouri LGBT Coalition and PFLAG-Columbia, Interweave invites you to a presentation by MU Sociology Professor Dr. Wayne Brekhuis on Thursday, November 1 at 7 pm in the Forum Room. Co-author of *Laud Humphreys: Prophet of Homosexuality and Sociology* (2004) and *Peacocks, Chameleons, Centaurs: Gay Suburbia and the Grammar of Social Identity* (2003), Dr. Brekhuis’ work examines issues strongly related to today’s headlines and Congressional “scandals.”

### “From Fundamentalism to Freedom”

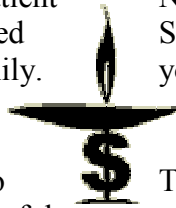
UU author and Lambda Literary Award winner Marc Adams will be presenting a workshop, “From Fundamentalism to Freedom” on Saturday, November 10 from 2-4 pm. A former Southern Baptist and student of Jerry Falwell’s Liberty University, Adams is the author of eight books; the most recent is *lost (Found)*. He is the founder of HeartStrong, a not-for-profit organization supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students in religious schools. Marc’s presentation is funded by PFLAG-Columbia.

# FUNdraising News

## Thanks to All Who Contributed and Helped with the All-Church Sale of May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>!

Over \$1,100 was raised for the general operating fund at the All-Church sale of May 11-12<sup>th</sup>, thanks to all of you! These funds helped to cover over-budget items, such as for utilities, for the last fiscal year, which ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. The sale was a great success for several other reasons: (1) The workers had fun and enjoyed the fellowship of their labors! (2) Many material items were transferred with delight from one UU to another! (3) Many of us relieved the “stuffing” of our storage spaces! (4) We got to try yet another great muffin of Sue Bader’s repertoire! (5) The church got a new floor scrubber, gently used vacuum and a table for the ladies room! and (6) A young leukemia patient now enjoys the wonderful trundle youth bed donated by the Schillinger/Ratermann family.

Although I am no longer the FUNdraising Chairperson for the church, I would like to thank the following people for their wonderful and tireless assistance in their labors and support of the All-Church Sale: Valerie, Bryan and Desiree Sauers, Roberta and Lee Jones, Irene Karns, Elaine Martin, Charles Roberts and Dorothy Watson, Denise Searles and Celeste Mazzaccano, Joy Amuedo, Mary Cate and Scott Denson, Sam and Susie Anand, Rosie Anderson-Harper and Family, Sue Bader, Jenny Bossaller and Family, Hazel Breitenbach, Sally Brown, Linda Brown, Barbara



Carter, Heather Carver and Brian Horner, Mary Margaret Coffield, Sarah Coller and Family, Winifred Colwill, Katherine Corey, Mehdi and Melinda Farhangi, Lisa Fritsche, Rebecca Graves and Pack Matthews, Janet Groat, Lisa Guillory, Robert Habenstein and Patricia Morrow, Bill Haney, Howard Hutton and Christy Clark Hutton, Todd & Cande Iveson and Family, Wilma and Dan Jordan, Larry Lile, Desi Long, Barbara Montgomery, Steve Mudrick, George and Lois Parker, Richard Parker, Tom Ratermann and Mary Beth Schillinger, Robin Remington and Paul Wallace, Linda Rexroth, Jan Swaney, Molly and Les Wagner, Ann White and Julia Stanley. (I apologize for any and all omissions, as they inevitably occur!)

## New FUNdraising Chair Sought!

So, the FUNdraising Chair is officially vacated. If you can consider leading our wonderful church folks in one or more event this year to place necessary funds in the General Operating budget, please let Todd Iveson (Finance Chair) know or contact me. I would love to orient and support the next FUNdraising Chair when the time is right! Meanwhile, I will coordinate the Thanksgiving Pastry Auction and work hard in my current posts in Chancel Décor (with Naoma Powell), Generosity Team, Congregational Caring Ministry (as Resource Person) and Youth Mentor.

Marianne Erickson

# Congregational Care Ministry

## Nourishing the Spirit

Planning a batch of soup or a yummy casserole? Make a few servings extra! The Congregational Care Ministry has space in the church kitchen freezer for meals available for members and friends who are experiencing illness or other life crisis. Please label containers with the date and name of dish or if the dish is vegetarian. Thanks for your help!

## Transportation Help

The Congregational Care Ministry is recruiting drivers who would be willing to take fellow member, Julie Harding, to her radiation treatments. The time commitment is minimal (approx. 30 minutes) and will be daily for the next several weeks. If you can volunteer a day or two or three, please contact Betty Acree or Tammy Jones.

## UU One Read

*The Faith Club: Three Women Search for Understanding* by Ranya Idiby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner was the unanimous choice of the One Read Selection Committee (Eric Bader, Kathie Bergman, Shannon Dennis, Kakie Love, Jeanne Murphy and Fran Reynolds).



*The Faith Club* is a compelling read that certainly makes one think. It “weaves the story of three women, their three religions, and their urgent quest to understand one another.”

In a way it is a spiritual memoir of the women’s meetings, their discussions, their concerns and then their reflections as they explored their faiths with one another. The book has a good reference section

on “Things to Know About Judaism/Christianity/Islam,” plus a pithy discussion guide and suggestions for starting one’s own Faith Club.

The book will soon be available at the book table and will be \$11.00 (no tax). Buy a book with a reading buddy, or order it used on-line.

The committee had a list of twenty nominations to select from. The complete list is available on the Book Table. The list was narrowed down to five which were:

- *The Faith Club: Three Women Search for Understanding* by R. Idiby, S. Oliver, P. Warner
- *Freedom From Fear* by Forrest Church
- *Here If you Need Me* by Kate Baelstrop
- *Saint Maybe* by Anne Tyler
- *War of Art* by Steven Pressfield

The committee based its selection on the following criteria:

1. Appeals to a cross-generational audience.
2. Appeals to a diverse audience.
3. Has thought provoking subject matter encouraging discussion; one can learn from the book.
4. Readability - easy to read and follow; involving.
5. In area of interfaith dialog.
6. Credible author
7. Lends itself to other activities besides discussion (e.g. dramatic readings, author interview, incorporate into Sunday service, panel discussions etc.)
8. In paperback; affordable...

## From the Desk of the Church Administrator

Remember that there will be a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> following the worship service in the sanctuary (during the potluck lunch). Refer to the October Searchlight for details.

Tip: Welcome our newest visitors by leaving space for them in the sanctuary and in the parking lot. Consider parking your car on the street or in the school parking lot on Sunday mornings to leave room for our visitors and for those who have difficulty walking. In the sanctuary, take a seat in the front row or in the far section.

Don't forget to check the calendar on the church's website ([www.uuchurch.net](http://www.uuchurch.net)) when planning your

social calendar! Also, Board meetings and committee meetings are open to any interested persons. Come experience church life!

Have you heard the news about Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth Religious Education? She was chosen to participate on the Jeopardy television show! Taping was scheduled in the week of October 29<sup>th</sup>. We will all have to wait to find out how she scored as she is sworn to silence until the airing later this winter! Go, Lisa!

Deadline for submission to the December Searchlight is noon on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Kathie Bergman

## Visitor Orientation

On the second Sunday of the month there is an informal orientation to the church led by the minister. This short session is designed for our visitors to meet Rev. Haney and to ask him questions about our church. Whether you are new to our church or have been attending for a while, you are invited to meet in Rev. Haney's office after the worship service on **Sunday, November 11.**

## Minister's Musings

### THE BEST "RELIGIOUS" HOLIDAY . . .

One of my colleagues said, "Thanksgiving is the best 'religious' holiday we have, the least burdened with theological conflicts and controversy, a holy day for all Americans." Knowing my colleague, this is a heartfelt statement. Yet, there are those who do not share in the bounty of Thanksgiving. There are two ways of holding Thanksgiving as a day of gratitude. The one is as an absolute, as with my colleague. We are grateful for all the blessings open to all bestowed upon us over the years. The other way is relative: we know ourselves to be privileged, and therefore with some degree of thankfulness in relation to those who suffer what we do not. Even as Thanksgiving is not "burdened with theological conflicts," many of us may reflect upon the moral and ethical dimensions of our privilege. So some of us may be caught in the tension between the simple gratitude for a life well lived, and a life that is missing much that we may have. Within each of our own lives we all lost something or someone we cherished. We carry gratitude for the gift given to us to witness that which we lost. As we celebrate our gratitude, we are called by our compassion and love to recognize those who do not have the spirit to bring their witness into the realm of gratitude: loss and absence is just too great. As we give thanks this year for all that we have, may we hold in our hearts those who have suffered from losses and from scarcity. Even as this is a secular holiday, may we be able to make it the best "religious" holiday.

Peace and Love,  
Bill



### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

Adopted by the Congregation on May 22, 1994

### The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

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

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

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



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## Our Staff

**Rev. William Haney, Minister**  
**Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth  
Religious Education**  
**Desiree Long, Music Director**  
**Kathie Bergman,  
Administrator**

Office Hours: M - F - 10 a.m. 'til 3 p.m.  
Telephone: 573-442-5764  
Email: [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurch.net)  
Visit our Website: [www.uuchurch.net](http://www.uuchurch.net)

## 2007-2008 Board of Trustees

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**Shannon Dennis, Treasurer**  
**Barbara Carter, Secretary**  
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**Tammy Jones**  
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