

THE SEARCHLIGHT

Volume 47, Issue 7

March 2008

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.



Flower Communion

Each Easter Sunday, we celebrate our “Flower Communion” service. This is a liturgical element known only to Unitarian Universalist congregations and commonly celebrated in them. It began with the Reverend Dr. Norbert Capek in his Unitarian church in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1923. He found many in the congregation came from diverse religious backgrounds. He wanted to have a way of liturgically celebrating the diversity in the church. He asked each person to bring a blossom to the service, place it in a basket to form a bouquet of diverse gifts and beauty, then redistribute each blossom to the gathered members as a gift from a stranger. Capek was arrested by the Nazis for alleged treason and executed at Dachau in October 1942. The Flower Communion was brought to this country by his wife, Maja, and first celebrated at our church in Cambridge, MA in 1940. We celebrate the Flower Communion in memory of him as a symbol of the freedom of faith we nurture in our beloved community of memory, hope and reverence. Please bring a flower to church on Easter Sunday, March 23, for this unique Unitarian Universalist service.

Easter Brunch

Join us for a delicious brunch on Easter Day after the service. This event is hosted by our teens, the YRUU, and is their main fundraiser for the year. Tickets for the brunch will be on sale in the Greeting Area after the worship service on March 9th and 16th.



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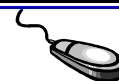
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“Raising UUs” Pledge Drive 2008

**Please return your pledge cards
by Sunday, March 9.**

The Generosity Team thanks you!

Visit us at uuchurch.net!



Worship Services

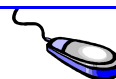
Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

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.

02 Mar	<p>“Remedies for the Winter Weary”</p> <p>We begin with our children for the opening of the worship service. Even kings get tired of the dreary winter, so the children’s story will tell. Our monthly pot-luck luncheon will follow the worship service. All are invited to attend.</p>
09 Mar	<p>“Love or Laws: What Makes a Family in the 21st century?”</p> <p>We welcome to the pulpit Scott Lewis, the current Lewis Intern at the First Unitarian Church in St. Louis, an endowed internship. The definition of “family” remains a hot political issue. With our Unitarian Universalist openness and call for social justice, is it possible our embracing diversity could soon be tested? The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Following the service, an orientation session for visitors will occur in the minister’s study. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour for daylight saving begins today.</p>
16 Mar	<p>“Justice Sunday”</p> <p>The Social Action Committee has designated March 16 as Justice Sunday for our church, and the service will address questions and issues of justice, politics, and religious principles as they apply to feelings, thoughts, and practices of the death penalty. Speakers will be Ms. Colleen Cunningham, State Coordinator of Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty, and Mr. Jeff Stack, Coordinator of the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty.</p>
23 Mar	<p>“Risen Indeed”</p> <p>“The resurrection is not only a problem for Unitarian Universalists. It is a problem for liberal Christians and others who, living in the modern world, have come to question the orthodox and dogmatic understandings of resurrection,” says Rev. Ralph Yeager Roberts. We will explore what possible meaning Easter can hold for Unitarian Universalists. The UU Singers will be a part of this Easter service. Rebecca Graves will be the Worship Associate. We will celebrate Easter with our Flower Communion at its conclusion (see article elsewhere in the <i>Searchlight</i>). Note the Faith-to-Action Collection will be on the fifth Sunday this month.</p>
30 Mar	<p>“Common Graces”</p> <p>We experience common occurrences in our daily lives. To what extent do we understand such ordinary things as extraordinary moments we are called to cherish and revere? Leslie Luchene will be the Worship Associate. The Faith-to-Action Collection will be for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).</p>



We are on the Web at uuchurch.net!



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.

March 2 “Continuing Discussion on Humanism and Atheism” Richard Parker and Charles Atkins

March 9 “Voluntary Action Center: A Heart for Service” Cindy Mustard, executive director

March 16 “Update on MU’s Women’s and Gender Studies Department” Jaqueline Litt, chair, and Jessica Jenrich, director of undergraduate advising, curriculum and programming

March 23 “What Is Women’s Art?” Catherine Parke, retired professor of English, now free-lance visual artist

March 30 “New Media Network Youth Photos” Holly Hobbs and Robbin Williams

Be Willing to Answer Yes!

In the next few weeks, members of the Board of Trustees will be approaching church members with the offer to serve on the Board. For those who have long memories, things have changed. Some probably served on the Board years ago. Others maybe heard horror stories from former Board members about the length of meetings and tedious nature of serving. You can be assured, all of that has changed. Rather than the Board managing the many aspects of church life, it now focuses upon the vision of the church and how the policies are being implemented. Life on the Board is more responsible and less stressful. And besides, it is fun! So, please, when a Board member approaches you and asks for your support by serving for two years, be willing to answer, “Yes!”

Discover UU

Mark your calendar if you wanted to participate in the Discover UU sessions and couldn’t make any of the previous evening sessions, because on Saturday, April 19 Rev. Haney will facilitate a one-day workshop format in the Centering Room downstairs. Instead of planning for four successive weekly evening sessions, you can have it over in just one day, from 9 AM to 3 PM, with a free lunch thrown in. And there will be childcare for those who need it, too. So mark your calendar for Saturday, April 19 for this worthwhile look at our roots, history and values. Registration forms will be available at the Visitor Table in the weeks to come. Or, call the church office and one can be sent by email.

Have you skills as a website designer? And an interest in serving the church? Please contact Kathie Bergman about a position available now!



Check out uuchurch.net!



Minister's Musings

HEARTS AWAY TOO LONG . . .

Easter comes early this year. Perhaps too early for a really vibrant Flower Communion, which we celebrate each Easter (see the article on the Flower Communion elsewhere in this issue of *Searchlight*). For many Unitarian Universalists, Easter, like Christmas, is a problematic season, even for some liberal Christians. Yet, orthodox dogma and doctrine aside, it is a rich season. For our Jewish friends, this is the season to celebrate Passover, that moment of freedom for oppressed people seeking their own identity. There is also the expectation of spring arriving, of a new season of verdant life reviving and renewing. It is indeed a rich season, open for many ways of seeing its importance in our lives. Part of the richness is embodied in the Easter story itself. Taken as metaphor and not literally, the tomb has a power of



hope and promise. Unitarian Universalist minister Richard Gilbert saw this with his poem, "A Tomb is No Place to Stay";

A tomb is no place to stay,
 Be it a cave in the Judean hills
 Or the dark cavern of the spirit.
 A tomb is no place to stay
 When fresh grass rolls away the stone of
 winter cold
 And vibrant flowers burst their way to
 warmth and light.
 A tomb is no place to stay
 When each morning announces our
 reprieve,
 And we know we are granted yet
 another day of living.
 A tomb is no place to stay
 When life laughs a welcome
 To hearts that have been away too long.

Peace and Love,
 Bill

**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).

**Everyone is invited!
 Sunday Potluck Lunch
 March 2, 2008**



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



Central Midwest District of the UUA

Church for the 21st Century: Shaping Our Religious Future Keynote Speaker Diana Butler Bass April 25-27, 2008 . . . St. Louis, Missouri

The Outreach Council is accepting nominations for delegates to represent our church at the Central Midwest District Annual Assembly. Please nominate yourself or someone else. Cards and instructions are posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board (next to the front door of the church). The church does not have a budget to support delegates this year but there are opportunities to reduce costs by carpooling, sharing hotel rooms, and staying with other UUs. Look for upcoming announcements or contact the church office to request more information about these opportunities.

From District President Daniel O'Connell's Welcome message:

“We will welcome Diana Butler Bass, author and independent scholar, as our first keynote speaker to speak on our theme this year. She will present “The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church,” followed by the Rev. Michael Tino to present innovative and exciting options for worship. These presentations will catalyze multiple discussions on

shaping the religious future of our Unitarian Universalist congregations.

We have recruited people to present workshops on such topics as ecology and sustainability, retaining visitors as involved members, and healthy congregations and covenants.

Our exciting Opening Celebration comes with music, inspiration and a banner parade. There will be a delicious banquet and fun and fabulous entertainment. We will gather Sunday morning for combined worship – all of this together with Unitarian Universalist friends, old and new, from across our Central Midwest District!

Also, in response to your suggestion last year, we are making children’s programming for Saturday more affordable.

All events will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, and overnight rooms are reserved until April 4, 2008 at the rate of \$105 per night.”

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?

Church History Writing Project

Last summer Stephanie Dorman and crew put years of photos in albums - now these albums need stories to go with them. If you would like to write - or have already written brief biographies of members, memoirs or have obituaries, articles, etc. please see Fran Reynolds at lunch on Sunday, March 2.

Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet Wednesday, March 12 at noon at the church. Patricia Morrow will lead a discussion of the book "Like Water for Elephants." Bring your brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Roberta Jones if you have questions.

Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at Q's Chinese Restaurant, 4004 Peach Ct. Friday, March 14 at 5:30pm. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel if you have questions.

Men's Spring Equinox Sweat

We have been doing a Native American style sweat for seven years on wild land in a beautiful and unspoiled valley near the Pinnacles. It will be an all day affair on Saturday, March 22, starting with the fire at about 10 am and constructing the sweat lodge as the rocks heat in the fire (actually we use iron because all the rocks I've tried shatter). Then carry the irons into the sweat, pile in, close the door, and start sweating. It will be informal and improvised so that everybody can be involved in how they want things structured. Don't worry about not having done a sweat before, just being there is enough.

We usually finish about 4 pm. It will be ok if you cannot get there in the morning. The sweat will not actually begin until after noon.

This is a great opportunity to reconnect with your self, other men and the natural world at the

beginning of a new growing year. Please come along. The more the merrier.

Contact Peter Holmes for more information, directions, and what to bring. This activity is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee.

UU Life Writer's Group

"We need to write, otherwise nobody will know who we are."

Garrison Keillor



Spring 2008 Theme: The People Who Have Made A Difference in Our Lives

The main purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Church's Life Writers' Group is to bring people together who want to tell and write their life stories. One doesn't have to be a world class writer nor an English teacher's whiz kid to enjoy writing stories, thus the emphasis is on getting these life stories down on paper and sharing them. Laughter, tears, sighs and groans punctuate the meetings as we explore, together, certain themes and memories.

The only tools needed are pens/pencils and paper. For further information call or email Fran Reynolds.

Meetings are Saturday mornings at 10:30 and usually end by 12:30 in the Centering Room (basement level) at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Spring Meeting Dates: March 1 and 15, April 5 and 19, and May 3 and 17

Interweave: UUs for LGBT Concerns

All are invited to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, March 5 at 5:45 pm in the Centering Room. It's time to plan our anniversary celebration, choose next year's leadership, and determine how we will participate in PrideFest, a community-wide picnic on June 14.

What's New at UU?

Green Pastures Farm Tour

On Saturday, March 15, join us on the tour of this locally owned, sustainable farm in Rucker, Missouri, 24 miles northwest of Columbia. We'll meet at the church at 12:15, then carpool to the farm, a 30-minute drive away.

All are welcome – including vegetarians! Those that would like to purchase meat (pork and lamb will be available), are asked to make orders ahead of time. For more information contact Corinne Mann. This activity is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee.

First Friends

Are you a newcomer to our church? If so, come join us for a First Friends get together to meet with seasoned members who can answer any questions you might have. We will have light refreshments and get to know each other in a relaxed environment. If you would like to have a First Friend to help you get involved in our community or be a First Friend to someone new, check at the Visitor's Table or call Barbara Carter or Rexanna Ipock-Brown. We meet in the foyer at the UU Church on Sunday, March 30th from 9 A.M. until 10 A.M. If you can't make it then, catch up with us on one of the other scheduled days: April 27th 4 P. M. - 5 P.M., May 25th 9 A.M.- 10 A.M., June 29th 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Faith-to-Action for March, 2008

The designated recipient of our Faith-to-Action Collection for March 30, 2008, sponsored by the UU Social Action Committee, will be the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). UUSC is our own social action organization, and its mission is to "...advance human rights and social justice around the world..." It operates around the world and intervenes wherever it finds economic injustice, environmental injustice, the absence or decline of either civil liberties or the democratic, and where disasters or humanitarian crises occur. Although UUSC is no longer formally or legally affiliated with UUA, through its actions, it

continues to offer a most visible manifestation of Unitarian Universalist principles. Please help our church offer needed financial support to UUSC on March 30 by contributing as much as possible to the Faith-to-Action Collection. Checks should be made out to the UU Church with "UUSC" written in the memo line. If you won't be at church on March 30th, mail your checks to the church!

UU Social Action Committee

This committee consists of people who wish to be involved in a variety of issues of social justice within a church-organized framework. Our efforts reflect the level of participation of our committee members, our energies, the financial support of our congregation, established decision-making guidelines, and a willingness to make a difference in our world.

Meetings are held on the second Sundays of each month at the church following the worship services. All persons may join the Social Action Committee. Membership in the church is encouraged but not required for persons to be actively involved in our work. Come to a meeting or contact the church office for contact information. Send an email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net and ask for your message to be forwarded to the current Social Action Committee members.

First Sunday means fair trade, organic coffee, tea, and chocolate! Look for the Green Sanctuary and YUUTs booth before and after the service!

Meditation in Nature

Join us at Gans Creek Wildlife Area every third Sunday of the month from 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. **Coming up:** UU's Down By the Riverside May 31st - June 1st.

What's New at UU?

Show Me Laughter Club

We meet every Thursday, from 7-8 pm inside the Centering Room of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

Attendance is free and 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.

Open Borders Concert Series

Musicians: Jim Scott and Charlie King

Friday, 7 March 2008 at 8 pm

Suggested donation: \$12 adults, \$6 for youth 16 and under

Send questions to Clint Harding.

Jim Scott returns to the UU Church of Columbia! He was last here when we celebrated the church's 50th anniversary in 2001.

Jim has long been active in the Unitarian Universalist Church, and has visited over 300 UU churches across the country leading services, presenting concerts, and offering workshops. Three of Jim's songs are included in the new Unitarian Universalist Hymnbook, and *Gather The Spirit*, has become a favorite across the denomination. Jim has served on the board of the UU Musicians Network, and was Co-Chair of the ecological/spiritual activist group the UU Seventh Principle Project. Through a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association, Scott has compiled, edited and arranged an anthology of songs of ecology and peace, *The Earth and Spirit Songbook*.

Charlie King has been at the heart of American folk music for over 40 years. His songs have been

recorded and sung by other performers such as Pete Seeger, Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, John McCutcheon, Arlo Guthrie, Peggy Seeger, Chad Mitchell and Judy Small. Honors include an "Indie" award for one of the top three folk recordings of 1984. In May of 1998 the War Resisters League gave their Peacemaker Award to Charlie and to Odetta. Pete Seeger nominated Charlie for the Sacco-Vanzetti Social Justice Award, which he received in November 1999. Charlie has released a dozen solo albums since 1976. He has also released three albums with the touring ensemble Bright Morning Star, and numerous compilation albums with other artists.

UUC Men's Group

The UUC Men's Group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 8 am 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! For more information contact Sam Anand or Bill Clark.

Welcome to the 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: 6:00 pm, 3rd Saturdays, 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.

Visitor Orientation

On the second Sunday of the month there is a regularly scheduled 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 awhile, you are invited to meet in Rev. Haney's office after the worship service on **Sunday, March 9, 2008**.

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



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65201
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Our Staff

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



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