

# The Searchlight



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Volume 48, Issue 4

December 2008

## UU One Read Winner Selection

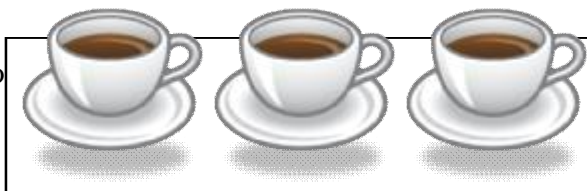
The congregation has spoken! The votes are in for the UU One Read selection. It was close! The winner is *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Relin. This is “an inspirational story of one man’s efforts to address poverty, educate girls and overcome cultural divides.” Mortenson was saved by some villagers in Pakistan when he was lost and near death after trying to climb the mountain known as K2 in Pakistan. To say thanks, he built schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, eventually becoming the founder of the Central Asia Institute. It is a story of hope and empowerment centering around the theme of social justice. This book shows what incredible things one individual can do when they “walk the talk.” It is an engrossing read.

The One Read Committee  
(**Kathie Bergman, Kakie Love, Tom**

## Advent Vespers

For those who wish to find a more meaningful moment in the on-rush of the Christmas season, you are invited to participate in the Advent Vespers each Sunday evening beginning right after Thanksgiving. We celebrate the coming of the darkness with the promise of light and life. These half-hour services occurring each of the four Sundays before Christmas are in-

**Bridewell, Marty Patton, Adele Coleman, Fran Reynolds, and Jeanne Murphy**) has begun planning some special events for 2009, including the February potluck, which will have a Pakistani food theme (or Middle Eastern or South East Asia). There will be book discussion circles in February. Rev. Haney will base his January 25 sermon on the book. Stay tuned for announcements for more events to come.



Since three people nominated *Three Cups of Tea*, the promised prize from the Book Table cannot be given until those three reveal themselves to Kathie Bergman, Church Administrator. Then there will be a drawing to see who gets the prize - a book of their choice from the Book Table.

Copies of the book will be for sale at the Book Table (\$12).

tended to pull away from the hub-bub of Christmas rush and noise and enter us into a quiet time together. Joy Amuedo and Dan Jordan will alternate as liturgists. These evening services (vespers) begin at 6:30 pm in the Centering Room downstairs on Sunday, Nov. 30, and Dec. 7, 14, and 21. All are welcome. Bring your families!



The stars are brightly shining!

- YES, WE CAN... BRING BACK THE SUN!
- THROW DOWN YOUR MONEY FOR A TOILET!
- ARE YOU WELCOMING A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE?

Inside this issue:

WORSHIP SERVICES	2
FORUM	3
CALENDAR	4
ANNOUNCEMENTS	5
SOLSTICE PARTY	8
FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK	9
MINISTER'S MUSINGS	9

# The Searchlight

## 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.*

Dec. 07	<p>“A Tree of Hope”</p> <p>The children in our Religious Education program will decorate the Christmas Tree on this, the Hanging of the Greens Sunday, in the sanctuary for the opening of the season of gift-giving and generosity. Board Member <b>Linda Brown</b> is the Welcomer. Our monthly pot-luck luncheon follows the worship service. All are welcome to enjoy each other’s company!</p>
Dec. 14	<p>“So What If There Is a Grinch?”</p> <p>“’Tis the Season to be Jolly!” or so the old saw goes. Yet sometimes we are hard pressed to be jolly, even to feign it for the sake of the season. Is there any way to really know the season? The UU Singers will be a part of the service. <b>Rebecca Graves</b> is the Worship Associate. Board Member <b>Gregory Brown</b> is the Welcomer. A guest orientation session about our church will be offered in the minister’s study following the service.</p>
Dec. 21	<p>Winter Solstice Celebration</p> <p>Celebrate the returning of the sun with the Whole Earth Based Spirituality (WEBS) group. <b>Gregory Brown</b> is the Worship Associate. Board Member <b>Rexanna Ipock-Brown</b> is the Welcomer.</p>
Dec. 28	<p>“In a More Religious Spirit”</p> <p>Every culture past and present has its own “new year” strung out at various times of the year. Ours is something of an anomaly in some respects, yet we do have an opportunity to seek our religious and spiritual values in an overwhelming secular celebration. Board Member <b>Bill Clark</b> is the Welcomer. The Faith-to-Action Collection will be offered to the Honduras Project.</p>



# Happy Holidays!



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](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.

## 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, Forum Coordinator*

Dec. 7	<b>Wayne Anderson</b> returns to discuss "Simple Ways of Helping People Improve their Health in Developing Countries."
Dec. 14	<b>Mary Paulsell</b> , longtime president of Columbia Entertainment Co., will discuss her new passion, "Entrepreneurship."
Dec. 21	Ever-popular <b>David Schenker</b> returns to discuss "Democracy - Then and Now."
Dec. 28	A roundtable about one-room schools involving <b>Dolores Clark, Betty Cook Rottmann, and Wayne Anderson</b> - all of whom experienced one-room schools.

## Kudos!

Congratulations to UU Ian Thomas and the PedNet Coalition for recently receiving an award from Peaceworks. The PedNet Coalition received the award for its work in making Columbia a better place to bike, walk, and wheel, making it possible for people to more easily live a more sustainable life. PedNet has done this through adding more infrastructure for bikes, pedestrians and wheel chair users and through its educational and promotional work, including walking school buses; confident city cycling classes; bike, walk and wheel to work week; and Cycle Re-cycle. Other award winners included an internationally renowned anti-nuclear weapons activist and an internationally renowned Palestinian author.



### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

## What's on the Calendar?

### Friday, December 5

- **Green Friday Movie Night** - 7 pm - "Nobility" - Description on page 5.

### Saturday, December 6

- **UU Life Writer's Group** - meets from 10:30 am -12:30 - all writers welcome.

### Sunday, December 7

- **Bible Literacy for UUs** - 9 am downstairs in the YUUTs classroom
- **Potluck Sunday** - Bring a dish to share! Lunch is scheduled immediately following the worship service.
- **Advent Vespers** - 6:30 pm in the Centering Room. Details on page 1.

### Wednesday, December 10

- **Conversations, Etc.** - noon - Christmas Potluck - bring soup, salad, or dessert. Contact Melinda Farhangi.

### Friday, December 12

- **UU Book Discussion Group** - meet at 5:30 pm at Q's Restaurant, 4004 Peach Tree Ct. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. All are welcome! Contact Pam Springsteel.
- **Open Borders Concert Series** presents Jim Scott in an evening of musical enjoyment.

### Saturday, December 13

- **UUCC Men's Group** - meets 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 and breakfast! For more information, contact Sam Anand.

### Sunday, December 14

- **First Friends** - gather from 9-10 am in the greeting area. More information on page 7.
- **Guest Orientation** - meet Rev. Haney in his office after the service to ask him church-related questions
- **YRUU Bake Sale** - after the service
- **Advent Vespers** - 6:30 pm in the Centering Room

### Saturday, December 20

- **Sunnyside Winter Solstice Celebration** - 7 pm. See page 9 for details.

### Sunday, December 21

- **Meditation in Nature** - 9 - 10 am at the Gans Creek Wildlife Area - Open to all people who love Nature. Email [natureandspirit@yahoo.com](mailto:natureandspirit@yahoo.com) for more information.
- **Bible Literacy for UUs** - 9 am downstairs in the YUUTs classroom.
- **Advent Vespers** - 6:30 pm in the Centering Room

### Wednesday, December 24

- **Christmas Eve Service** - 7 pm - More information on page 7.

### Saturday, December 27

- **UUCC Men's Group** - 8 am in the Piccadilly Restaurant at the Holiday Inn Select

## Announcements

### HERITAGE CELEBRATION

The Congregational Development Council invites you to mark your calendars now for a special program and reception on Sunday, January 25 from 3-5 pm. We will be celebrating 57 years as UUs in Columbia, and 10 years since our building expansion. Look for more information at church and in upcoming newsletters. See Fran Reynolds, Kakie Love, or Betty Cook Rottmann for details.

### WESTERN CHRISTENDOM BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Casey Goodman and Loretta Willems are in the process of forming a study group to read a fascinating book on the development of early Christianity, *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, A.D. 200-1000, 2nd edition*, by Peter Brown. Loretta describes it as follows:

"This book is a beautiful book, written by one of the most widely respected scholars in the field who also happens to write beautiful, readable prose. He is at the end of his career and not only has a vast amount of well-digested information at his fingertips, he pulls together and integrates the recent explosion of recent research in the field. What I find fascinating is that the book sets Western Europe against the background of a world that includes the eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and the rise of Islam. Of all the books I've read on the history of this period, this is my all-time favorite."

The Economist says in its review: "There is no better introduction to what western Christendom became than this fine and delightfully readable study."

The group will meet twice a month, probably on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening, starting in January. Contact Casey Goodman or Loretta Willems to join in or for more details.

### GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Last month, we gave out the "Guest at Your Table" boxes and envelopes. This is the major fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which has projects promoting social justice in the US and in other countries. They particularly work to defend the rights of women and children.

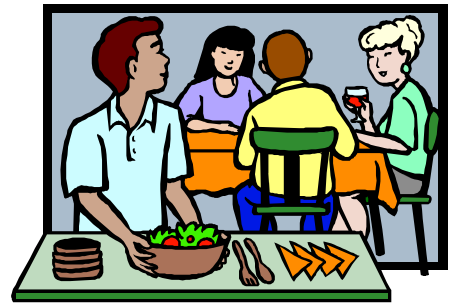
If you did not get a box or envelope, there should be some in the greeting area. Take a box home today, and for the next several weeks, consider it as a "guest" at the table where you eat. You and your family can put a little money in it at each meal.

Please support the work of our denomination's service committee. This is one way we can work to promote our values, as expressed in our UU principles. If you can give enough money to become a member of UUSC, please do so. Their website, [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org), tells about their work.

In January, we will collect the money, in the form of checks made out to UUSC with "guest" written on the memo line. If you have questions, talk to Steve Mudrick. Thank you!

### GREEN FRIDAY MOVIE

The December Green Friday movie will be "Nobelity" on Friday, December 5 at 7 pm. Filmed across the U.S., and in France, England, India, and Africa, "Nobelity" combines the insights of nine distinguished Nobel prize winners with a first-person view of world problems and the children who are most challenged by them. The Green Sanctuary invites everyone to attend this free event and enjoy open conversation about it afterwards.



# The Searchlight

## Announcements

### THE SOUND OF UU MUSIC

UU Singers (teenagers and adults) have regular rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. downstairs in the Centering Room. All voice parts are needed and all singers are welcome. Childcare is available. We perform on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Join us!

### WHOLE EARTH BASED SPIRITUALITY (WEBS) GATHERINGS

WEBS (Whole Earth-Based Spirituality Group) will not meet in December. Come join us for the lay-led service on December 21st. Barbara Carter, UU contact

### FAIR TRADE ORGANIC COFFEE, TEA, AND CHOCOLATE SALES

Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate make great holiday gifts, especially when they are organic and fair trade. Stop by the booth in the greeting area for our regular First Sunday sale on December 7. We are also planning a second sale on December 14 for your last minute shopping!

### HELPING THE HUNGRY

Remember those around us who are hungry.... Please try to bring a can of food or two when you come to the December potluck. Put the cans in our food collection bin near the coat rack. The food goes to the Central Missouri Food Bank Pantry; think of it as an extension of our bounty.



### BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY

As a follow up to *Building Your Own Theology I – The Introduction*, the second in the BYOT series, called “Exploring,” will be offered in January and February 2009 on six consecutive Saturday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. This series will begin January 17 and will be led by the Reverend Gertrude Lindener-Stawski and Fran Reynolds.

BYOT II “Exploring” continues the exploration of the ideas that form the basis of our way of life. This series will have participants wrestling with good and evil, the ups and downs of life, of truth and authority, of responsibility, death and immortality, and the role of the church in one’s life.

The series is open to all, but will be especially meaningful to those who have participated in BYOT I. Childcare will be available if needed. Information sessions and sign-ups (necessary) with Gertrude and Fran will be on Sundays, December 7 and 14 after church. The book, *Building Your Own Theology – Exploring* by Richard Gilbert will be available to peruse. The book is \$17.50 and must be paid for in advance.

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Formerly known as the Caring Committee, the Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) serves our congregation by organizing efforts to assist members experiencing life transitions or crises.

As a member or friend of our church, you are automatically a part of the Care Ministry. If you'd like to be a part of the team who coordinates the services of the Ministry, please contact the Congregational Care Ministry Team Leader, Mike Headrick. We warmly welcome anyone who'd like to share their gifts by helping to coordinate these vital activities.

## Announcements

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

This year on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm we will celebrate Christmas Eve with the annual Candlelight Service, a family event that includes singing Christmas Carols, a crèche by the children, the UU Singers, and the lighting of the Candles of Life for those in each family who had a birth or a death this past year. We will close the service with the candlelighting, casting the serene glow in the sanctuary as a symbol of each individual contribution to illuminating the darkness of the season. Refreshments follow the service.



### DECEMBER FAITH-TO-ACTION COLLECTION

The Faith to Action Collection recipient on December 28, 2008 will be the Social Action Committee sponsored Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia group that will be going on a service trip to Honduras in June 2009. The group will be going to El Pital, a little village in the mountains near La Ceiba, Honduras. El Pital was ravaged by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. After the hurricane, a group of women applied for and received a micro loan to establish a sewing cooperative. This co-op has provided an alternative source of income for many women in the village so that they are able to better feed their children and send them to school. The co-op also sponsors important community projects like building latrines for proper sanitation and leading educational initiatives on how to protect the rainforest.

The UU group will mainly help with building latrines, and the money raised will go towards the materials to build them. The group would like to raise enough money for at least 10 latrines (cost of \$150 to \$200 per latrine). The group will be doing other fundraising activities as well. Should they raise more money than needed for about 10 latrines, that money may be used to offset group members' travel costs. For more information or to get involved, please contact Allie Gassmann.

### POTLUCK

One of our favorite events during the academic year is the potluck on the first Sunday of each month. Feel free to join us. It starts after the service around 11:45. Plan to stay until the dishes are done (could be 1:15 or so) *one out of three months*. We do need help. Here is the clean up rotation for the next three months. If you have a conflict ('tis the season), please remember to pitch in another month. The regular volunteers are really getting burnt out!

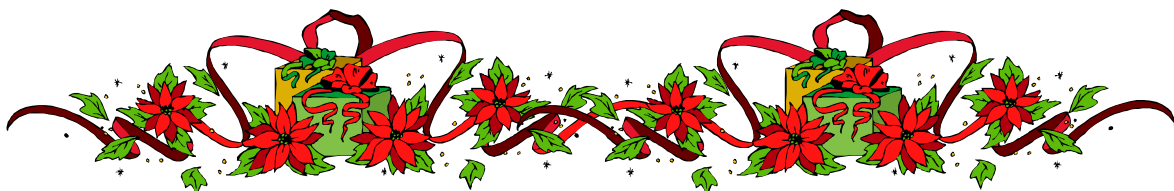
Dec. 7th **A-I** clean up

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> **J-R** clean up

Feb. 1st **S-Z** clean up

### FIRST FRIENDS

Have you heard about the Dinner Club? The Green Sanctuary? The Writing Group? If you would like the answers to these questions and to know more about our church community, join First Friends on Sunday, December 14 for a gathering of new and seasoned members. First Friends is designed to connect a seasoned member of our church with a new member or folks who are interested in becoming members. A First Friend will help in introducing you into the UU experience. We will meet from 9 am - 10 am in the foyer of the church for coffee and treats. If you have questions, call Rexanna Ipock-Brown or Barbara Carter. See you there!



## The Searchlight

---

# Sunnyside Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 20 at 7 pm  
Nick and Nancy Spaeder's home

Dress Weird but Warm (It's outside!)  
Any fancy dress is good, but animal spirits, masks,  
primitive earthy beings would be great.  
Also bring high energy, foolery, drums,  
noise makers, flashlights, and finger foods  
to share around the bonfire.

Bring lots of kids--they're gonna love it!



### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

I probably didn't fool anyone in the last newsletter with my attempt at nonchalance about the elections. Like many of my friends and colleagues, I was obsessed with checking the polls every night and trying to divine the future (the Iowa Electronic Market did a pretty good job). It is a relief that the anxiety is over, and what an amazing election night it was! But the election of course was not an end, rather the beginning of a lot of hard work. Whether your candidate wins or loses, we constantly need to remind politicians of our priorities and remain active. One example from the same night as a strange juxtaposition to the amazing leap forward in the presidential election: the deeply troubling discrimination against same-sex couples expressed in adoptions of several state propositions. Staying actively engaged is probably especially hard when you feel the elections went your way, yet it is a necessity in a democracy.

Active engagement is of course especially vital in a congregation like ours. We have dedicated staff that work hard, but our church would not exist without the countless volunteers who give it life. The democratic principles that guide UU congregations make every council convener and committee representative, every Forum participant and religious education teacher, every usher and kitchen volunteer, in fact make every member who takes initiative a leader who shapes our congregation. The absence of a central denominational structure that directs other churches and the lack of fire and brimstone from our pulpits can give the impression that UUs don't have a direction or focus. Yet I feel our insistence on the free and responsible search for truth and meaning by every member is a focus from which springs all the amazing multi-varied activities and engagements of our members in our congregation, our community, and the world. You all know that UUism is not a spectator sport. Thank you for your participation!



Walter Gassmann  
Board President

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).*



## Volume 48, Issue 4

### FROM THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

The postal service requires that we verify and correct all addresses and zipcodes each year. Please check the mailing label on this newsletter and if a correction is needed, let me know.

If you will need a "Statement of Contributions" from the 2008 calendar year for tax purposes, send me a message requesting one. I'll print out and mail statements in January.

Financial Reports, Board Minutes, Policies and Procedures - if you have a request, don't hesitate to contact me. Many times I can send something to you by an email attachment. It couldn't be easier!



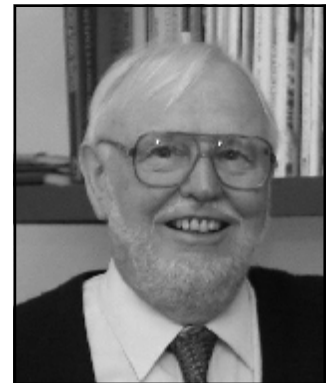
Kathie Bergman



### MINISTER'S MONTHLY MUSINGS

#### A REBIRTH OF WONDER . . .

December is the month of Advent, a season related to the orthodox Christian tradition of the awaiting of the birth of Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior. Even though I do not subscribe to that orthodox view, I do find something of a genius in the season. My interpretation of the season of Advent is awaiting as the beckoning of darkness and hopelessness are overtaken by the light of new hope in the ever-promising of the rebirth of life. I find this season of awaiting most helpful given the secular, commercial emphasis upon the glut of Christmas Eve and/or Day. The pending birth of any child is wrapped up with hope and joy, as well as anxiety and apprehension. So, too, is the case with the pending Christmas, often fraught with many memories of family members and friends no longer with us. So there is a certain pessimism or skepticism, if not cynicism about Christmas, yet with still a sense of hope, as with Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poem titled "Advent:"



I am waiting for the Second Coming  
and I am waiting for a religious revival  
to sweep through the state of Arizona  
and I am waiting  
for the Grapes of Wrath to be stored  
and I am waiting for them to prove  
that God is really American  
and I am waiting  
to see God on television

piped into church altars  
if only they can find the right channel  
to tune in on  
and I am waiting  
for the Last Supper to be served again  
with a strange new appetizer  
and I am perpetually awaiting  
a rebirth of wonder.

Peace and Love, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah,  
Bill

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



**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Columbia, MO  
65201  
Permit No. 81

## 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)



## 2008-2009 Board of Trustees

Walter Gassmann, President  
Kevin Fritsche, President-elect  
Valerie Sauers, Treasurer  
Ellen Thomas, Secretary  
Bill Clark  
Mike Headrick  
Linda Lou Brown  
Gregory Brown  
Rexanna Ipock-Brown