

The Searchlight



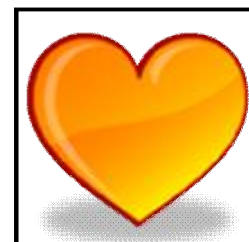
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Volume 48, Issue 6

February 2009

February's Faith to Action Collection

Hopefully many of you have read the One Read selection "Three Cups of Tea" by now. The book tells the story of Greg Mortenson and his journey from a failed attempt to climb K2, to his stay in a remote mountain village where he was nurtured back to health by the remarkable villagers, to his establishment of the Central Asia Institute as a means to address poverty, educate children and especially girls, and overcome cultural divisions in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our children will be collecting "Pennies for Peace" throughout the month of February to support the Central Asia Institute in its outstanding and daring work. We as a church will have the opportunity to support the Central Asia Institute with the Faith to Action collection on February 22. That same morning **Sam Anand** and **Walter Gassmann** will be sharing their experiences and knowledge of Pakistan at Forum. Our support of the ordinary citizens of Pakistan and Afghanistan is needed now more than ever.



Show us the love!

- SHARE YOUR PENNIES WITH THE WORLD.
- WHAT'S YOUR LOVE STORY?
- LET'S RAISE UP OUR STAFF (AND THEIR INCOMES!)

Honduras Trip Update

Thank you so much to all who donated so generously to the Honduras Service Trip (to build latrines in El Pital, Honduras) in the Faith to Action collection in December! At about \$200 per latrine, we now have enough money for 7 latrines.

As it stands now, there are 24 UUs and 5 United Church of Christ members going to Honduras from June 14 to June 21. The group is meeting monthly to plan and prepare and to think of great fundraising events.

And you will not want to miss the next fundraising event! On February 8, there will be a Valentine's Day sale in the greeting area before and after the service. On sale will be items made in the fair trade sewing cooperative in El Pital and home-baked goodies. You may buy "shares" in the latrine-building project. And best of all - singing valentines! You will be sure to find the perfect valentine's gift for your sweetheart and at the same time support a group from our church that is making a difference in one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere.



To learn more about the country of Honduras and this service trip, you may want to come to the Forum presentation on March 8. Mark your calendars now.

Contact Allie Gassmann with questions or comments.

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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

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|---------|---|
| Feb. 01 | <p>“Pennies From Heaven”</p> <p>The things we normally consider worthless can turn out to be of great value after all. The children in their program this morning will be celebrating “Pennies for Peace” sponsored by the Central Asia Institute. The children will be with us for the opening of this service. Board Member Bill Clark is the Welcomer. Our monthly potluck luncheon follows the worship service. All are welcome to enjoy each other’s company!</p> |
| Feb. 08 | <p>“UUs In the Service of Love”</p> <p>Since our faith tradition is based upon independent and autonomous congregations, when we celebrate our Annual Canvass, we must ask the question, how can our generosity contribute to “money as a spiritual tool for doing sacred work?” as was asked by Rabbi Shawn Israel Zevit. The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Qhyrrae Michaelieu is the Worship Associate. Board President Walter Gassmann is the Welcomer. A guest orientation session about our church will occur in the minister’s study following the service.</p> |
| Feb. 15 | <p>“Love Stories”</p> <p>Writers Group Sunday Lay-led service. There are many kinds of love stories as love comes in various guises. The UU Life Writers Group will present their “Love Stories.” Board Member Rexanna Ipock-Brown is the Welcomer.</p> |
| Feb. 22 | <p>“Waltzing With Obama”</p> <p>This President’s Day service will celebrate the beginning of a new era in American politics. What are the values inherent in this new hope that relate to our Unitarian Universalist tradition? UU Singers will be a part of the service. Adele Coleman is the Worship Associate. Board Member Gregory Brown will be the Welcomer. The Faith-to-Action Collection will be offered to the Central Asia Institute.</p> |



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.

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. Bill Clark, Forum Coordinator

Feb. 01	Marie Hunter will discuss the operation of Columbia Office for Cultural Affairs.
Feb. 08	Mel West will present the first of two weeks updating PET - Personal Energy Transportation. During the past year, he expanded the operation.
Feb. 15	Mel West will return to take you around the world to see just what the impact of a PET (Personal Energy Transportation) is.
Feb. 22	The 2009 UU One Read Program has chosen <u>Three Cups of Tea</u> for the year's One Read selection. This Forum discussion will feature UUs Walter Gassmann and Sam Anand , who will lead a discussion about living in Pakistan and/or India, an area of the world known intimately by "Three Cups" author Greg Mortenson.

Congratulations! to our Reverend Bill Haney for
20 years of service to the Unitarian Universalist
Church of Columbia!

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.*

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What's on the Calendar?

Sunday, February 1

- **Bible Literacy for UUs** - 9 am downstairs in the YUUTs classroom. Details on page 5.
- **Fair Trade, Organic Coffee, Tea & Chocolate Sales** - before & after the service. Proceeds support our coffee service and our youth activities.
- **Potluck Sunday** - Bring a dish to share! Lunch is scheduled immediately following the worship service.

Friday, February 6

- **Green Friday Movie "Good Food"** - 7 pm. Join us for a free movie and discussion. See page 5 for more.

Sunday, February 8

- **Honduras Trip Valentine's Day Fundraiser** - before and after the service. Information on page 1.
- **Guest Orientation** - meet Rev. Haney in his office after the service to ask him church-related questions.

Wednesday, February 11

- **Conversations, Etc.** - noon at church - bring a brown bag lunch, and a snack to share if you wish. Kathie Bergman and Kakie Love will speak on Three Cups of Tea - the church's 2009 One Read. Contact Melinda Farhangi.

Friday, February 13

- **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.

Saturday, February 14

- **UUC 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.

Saturday, February 21

- **Whole Earth Based Spirituality** - 11 am - "The Elements: Sun" Details on page 5.

Sunday, February 22

- **Meditation in Nature** - 9 - 10 am at the Gans Creek Wildlife Area - Open to all people who love nature. Contact Peter Holmes for more information.
- **Bible Literacy for UUs** - 9 am downstairs in the YUUTs classroom.
- **First Friends** - gather from 9 - 10 am in the greeting area. See page 5 for more information.

Saturday, February 28

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

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).



Announcements

GREEN FRIDAY MOVIE

The February Green Friday movie will be "Good Food," showing on Friday, February 6th at 7pm at the church. From the importance of asparagus to the marketing of Sunny Delight, these 12 short documentaries explore how issues of free trade and sustainability affect the foods we consume and the world we inhabit.

Titles include "Asparagus! (A Stalk-umentary)," "Young Agrarians," "Inch by Inch: Providence Youth Gardens for Change," "Profit Cola," "Terminator Tomatoes," "One More Dead Fish," "The Meatrix" and "Water Warriors."

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



BIBLE LITERACY FOR UUs

This series of sessions will focus on what the Bible is, both as sacred literature and secular literature, its origins, what the "canon(s)" are, how the Bible came to be, the various books' place and time settings, short history of its translations and (mis)use, ways of interpretation, and what if any relevance it may have for UUs today. We will not read vast amounts of the biblical text. It will simply be an overview to learn there is context behind everything mis-users of the text tend to ignore or overlook. The sessions will be held at 9 am on the first and third Sunday of each month meeting in the YUUTs room downstairs and it's never too late to start. All are welcome. Steve Blower and Bill Haney are the co-facilitators.

WHOLE EARTH BASED SPIRITUALITY GROUP (WEBS)

Open to all who are involved in an Earth-centered religious practice. Bring a willingness to explore yourself and your spiritual practice. **Bring a potluck dish.**

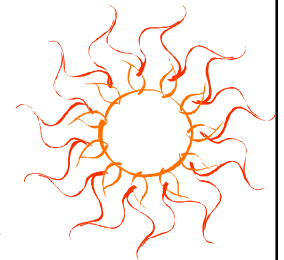
Saturday, February 21 at 11:00 AM: We begin an exploration of the elements, their symbolism, and how each of us sees them working out in our lives. This month, in the time of Brigid, Sun rules.

Saturday, March 21 at 11:00 AM: In like a lion, out like a lamb. Join us to continue our discussion of the elements. In March, Air rules. Bring your voice.

Saturday, April 18 at 11:00 AM: April showers bring May flowers. This month, Water rules. What does water bring into your life?

Saturday, May 16 at 11:00 AM: In May in Missouri it is planting season. The Earth brings forth its bounty once again. In May, Earth rules. Come discuss what this burgeoning of life means to you.

For more information, contact Barbara Carter. Childcare available with at least one week's notice.



FIRST FRIENDS

If you are a new member or thinking of becoming a member of our church, please join us on Sunday, February 22 from 9 am - 10 am in the church foyer for the First Friends gathering. We will have coffee and snacks and seasoned members to answer your questions. If you are interested in having a First Friend who will help you navigate the church community, stop by the Guest Table or come have coffee with us. Call Rexanna Ipock-Brown or Barbara Carter with questions.



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Opportunities

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis announces the twentieth annual Scholarship Competition for the academic year 2009-2010. Initiated by a generous bequest from the estate of Edna Landzettel, a lifelong teacher and proponent of the importance of education in a woman's life, the scholarship will be given to a woman who is 25 years or older, responsible financially for continuing her education, a member of a St. Louis Area Unitarian Universalist church or fellowship (SLAUUC), and a registered student. The award of \$3,000 will be made on the basis of scholarship, character and need. The deadline for completed applications is April 30, 2009.

Application packets are now available. Please email office@firstuustlouis.org or request them from:
The Women's Alliance Scholarship Committee
Attn: Marilyn Carpenter, Women's Alliance
5007 Waterman Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63108



WESTWARD HO COLORADO

Spend September 22-28, 2009 on the front range of the Rocky Mountains in an excursion fundraiser sponsored by the UU Church of Pueblo. Experience the history, art, and geographical features of this southwestern community in the company of fellow Unitarian Universalists. Cost \$775 per person. Excursion package includes a overnights at a Bed and Breakfast with a UU host family. Space is limited; registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Make reservations and/or obtain further information by phone (719) 543-5249 Pat Spahr or email dhstone@aculink.net.

WOMEN & RELIGION

Central Midwest District of the UUA announces a Winter Retreat: Winter WomanSpirit 2009 "Weaving Our Sacred Tapestry" from February 20-22, 2009 in Peoria, IL. For more information go to www.womenandreligion.org/WWS2009.htm or look for the brochures in your church



SOCIAL JUSTICE PLEDGE

For many, the new year presents the chance for new possibilities. The new administration and Congress promise to present new opportunities too. We too can rededicate ourselves to helping "form a more perfect Union." The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has legislative objectives for the coming congressional term that were strategically chosen after considering their grounding, fit, and opportunity. We can achieve these objectives, but we need your help to make it happen. Please visit www.uua.org/socialjustice, read the legislative objectives, and pledge your support to one or more in the upcoming year!

UUCB BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Although this is only February, the course of the church year will be closing in upon its end in May. That time will come sooner than we think! So, now is the time to give some thought to each person's opportunity to serve the church. The Board of Trustees will be organizing a Nominating Committee for purposes of selecting a slate of two new Board members to serve the 2009-2011 terms. The service of the three-member Nominating Committee is a short-term process for just a few months. The service on the Board is for a two-year term beginning next July. If you get a chance, please talk to a current Board member about the rewards each has received by serving on the Board. You can also talk with Kathie Bergman or Reverend Haney about the opportunities to serve on a vibrant and invigorating body.

Generosity Team News: 2009-2010 Canvass

The FY 09-10 Canvass is off and running, following the Canvassers' Trainings last month.

Our own Julie Baka gave very effective and professional workshops that built confidence and optimism in the minds of our dedicated canvassers, who include:

Sue Bader, Julie Baka, Hazel Breitenbach, Gregory and Rexanna Ipock-Brown, Linda Lou Brown, Barbara Carter, Bill Clark, Stephanie Dorman, Mehdi and Melinda Farhangi, Carol Francis (from the YRUU), Kevin Fritsche, Walter and Allie Gassmann, Rebecca Graves, Mike Headrick, Howard Hutton, Cande and Todd Iveson, Carolyn and David Leuthold, Leslie Luchene, Elaine Martin, Wiley Miller, Barbara Montgomery, Valerie Sauers, Mary Beth Schillinger, Pam Springsteel and Margaret Tyler. They are truly "UUs in the spirit of love."

I am very proud to have these dedicated UUs on our Generosity Canvass Team. Just looking at the names dispels one myth that Julie mentioned at the training – Myth #2: "Those who give the most money to an organization do not have significant time to offer also." That is certainly false in the case of our church! Many of the people who are giving very valuable time in canvassing **do** make very substantial financial contributions to support the work of our church, its members and staff and provide for the physical plant. Those who give the MOST money are often those who give the most time. One reason is that their commitment is true "stewardship," in that they are invested in many different ways in the vision and mission of the UU Church of Columbia.

Why is a personal canvass with scheduled visits so important to the success of the church's stewardship campaign? There are several reasons:

- To learn about peoples' priorities for the church, now and in the future.
- To share important information about programs, goals and the way our church uses financial contributions to accomplish the congregations' goals.
- Many people want to share their opinions about how a faith community's internal programs are conducted and funded.
- People want to know that their contributions are making a difference.



The Generosity Team vision for the next Fiscal Year is to increase total pledges by ten percent to bring our "pocket book" in line with expected growth and increased church community activities, a much needed cost of living raise for staff (there was NO raise last year), to cover inflationary increases for energy, postage, supply expenses and sufficient funding to maintain our physical plant.

We have begun a "Pacesetter" campaign to build a positive momentum at the start of the canvass. I have already received three pacesetter pledges that are at least 10% higher than last year! We hope to report to you by February 15th that we have made a very good start toward reaching our goal and accomplishing our vision. Our hope is that we can finish making all canvass visits by February 22nd and finalize the canvass by the first Sunday in March.

Another myth that Julie pointed out in her canvasser trainings is: "During an economic downturn, people will not give as much money to their faith community." This, too, is false. The truth is that during an economic downturn people are more careful in their choice of how they spend their limited discretionary funds. They will give to their faith community if a compelling case has been made, especially in recognition of those within the community who may have lost their jobs or businesses and cannot contribute as they would desire.

We are a vibrant church, with demonstrated fiscal responsibility, an immense level of community involvement, a very strong religious education program, superb music, inspirational worship services, an extremely dedicated and expanding volunteer core and a highly skilled, professional and loyal staff.

When you are asked to visit with one of our wonderful canvassers, please welcome her/him/them and know that they are on a very important mission from church – UUs in the service of love – and they will treasure the time and commitment you share with them.

Marianne Erickson
Generosity Team Chair

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UU One Read

The 2009 UU One Read program has been designed by the UU One Read Committee to foster engagement in our community. One Read Committee members anticipate that participation in small group discussions will provide the opportunity for meaningful interactions among individuals. By reading the 2009 selection - Three Cups of Tea - we will discover new ways to view issues of civil, social, and cultural importance. We hope to stimulate a process of examining our lives, values, and goals with the intent of growing and developing spiritually as well as intellectually. All UU members and friends are encouraged to attend and to participate in one of the small group discussions. We hope you will enjoy the experience!

Recognized for nominating this year's One Read: **Allie Gassmann** - \$15 gift certificate



2009 One Read Activity Schedule:

February 1 10:30-11:30
“Pennies for Peace” program during service
February 1 12:00-1:00
Monthly Potluck – Informal discussion
February 11 12:00-1:00
Conversations, Etc. – Pennies for Peace DVD & Discussion
February 22 9:00-10:00
Forum Discussion – **Sam Anand & Walter Gassmann**
Perspectives on living in Pakistan & India
February 22 10:30-11:30
UU Faith to Action Collection - Central Asia Institute
March 1 & 15 12:00-2:00
One Read Discussion facilitated by One Read Committee

FROM THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Fresh and warm from the oven - raisin bread, muffins, rice pudding and other home-made goodies were delivered to a number of local Unitarian Universalists on December 21st thanks to a special project sponsored by the UU Congregational Care Ministry.

The upper level UU kitchen was indeed bustling that morning! If you attended the worship service you might have noticed the fragrance of cinnamon and sugar wafting through the sanctuary. **Marianne Erickson** and **Allie Gassmann** were the special project co-leaders. Children from the Youth Religious Education program donated hand-made holiday greeting cards. **Stephanie Dorman** also produced a greeting card to accompany each gift which read: "Happy holidays! Yuletide Greetings! We hope your holidays are bright and peaceful! From all of us at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia." Several thank you notes have subsequently been received.

If you are called to work with some very special UUs and can lend a hand occasionally, please consider volunteering with the Congregational Care Ministry. **Mike Headrick** is the current committee chairperson. Our next special project just might be the one you have in mind!



Kathie Bergman

Social Action Committee Notes



A health care reform Town Hall Meeting / Discussion was held on January 15 at our church thanks to the efforts of **Evanell Craven** and the UU Social Action Committee. Despite the frigid weather, it was attended by folks with varied backgrounds who shared an interest in the subject and the process (initiated by the presidential transition team) to 'brainstorm' and share ideas with the team. In summary, to improve health care, the paradigm shift needs to first accept that profit-driven health care is **not** the path to continue on.

Matt Buckley, the event organizer, wants to thank everyone who participated and hopes we will have further discussions as the 'Change' requires.

Finance Committee Facts

As of December 31, halfway through our fiscal year, we had received 54% of our pledges, and 62% of our budgeted income. By contrast, our expenses have been only 48% of the budget. Building maintenance and utilities are the areas that are most significantly below budgeted amounts. As a result, even though we budgeted a withdrawal from working capital of \$7,084, we currently have a surplus of \$22,034 for the first half of the year. We anticipate that this surplus will be reduced as the year goes on to meet increased utility costs during the winter months and additional building maintenance, but there is a good chance the draw on working capital will not be necessary.

If you have any questions about Church finances, feel free to ask any member of the finance committee: **Sally Brown, Howard Hutton, Todd Iveson, Elaine Martin, Wiley Miller, Barb Montgomery, and Pam Springsteel**. All are welcome to come to our meetings, which are usually the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Celebrating Our Heritage

On Sunday, January 25, over 100 members and friends celebrated the past, present, and future of our church. Featuring the music of **Tom Andes, Peter Holmes, Jackie & Xochitl Ambrow**, the UU Singers, **Pack Matthews, Alan Arnold**, and the Children's Builder's Chorus, the event mixed tears and laughter while recognizing the contributions of many to our organization.

Gift Committee members **Joy Amuedo, Carol Arnold, Jeanne Murphy, Dennis Murphy, and Jenni Schmidt** created an "Illumination" stole to honor Rev. **Bill Haney's** 20th anniversary. Additionally, church members and friends gave over \$450 for a financial gift for our minister.

Larry Dorman excerpted **Ian Thomas's** 50-year anniversary video to create segments on our "Beginnings" and "Expansion." Interviews with **Sally**

Brown, George Parker, and Bernice Cudd told the stories of the church's early days, from the building's creation to its expansion. **Rev. Gertrude Lindener-Stawski, Walter Gassmann, and Dan Jordan** also contributed to the program. **Lisa Fritsche** and **David and Carolyn Leuthold** provided photo memories for the reception.

Food and Décor Team members **Sue Bader, Mary Margaret Coffield, Janet Groat, Joyce Powell, and Roberta Jones** created a beautiful (and tasty!) atmosphere for our celebration. Our Young Religious UUs (YRUU) offered service with style and flash. Many thanks to everyone who spontaneously contributed to the set-up and tear-down for the Heritage Celebration.

Betty Cook Rottmann, Fran Reynolds, Kakie Love, and Kathie Bergman joined with me to put together this event. We hope you found it enjoyable and inspiring.
Stephanie Dorman

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Last year on Friday, December 19, the Bush administration Bureau of Land Management held a last-minute sale of oil and gas drilling rights in pristine Utah wilderness lands. After writing his final exams, University of Utah student Tim DeChristopher went to the site of the sale to protest. One thing led to the next, and he found himself inside the auction room, buying land with money he didn't have and raising prices all around. He was eventually identified as a nuisance bidder and removed, but by that time Tim DeChristopher had so thoroughly disrupted the proceedings that there was a good chance all sales would be voided. In an interview with Amy Goodman, Tim simply stated that for a long time over one environmental issue or the other, he had hoped that someone would step up and do something, but on that day he realized that someone might have to be him.

And with that you probably know what I'm trying to drive at: if you want someone to do something to improve something at church, that someone might have to be you! Now, I'm not sure the above is the best analogy. For one, when you talk to the generosity team, we would prefer if you pledge money you actually have. On the other hand, your pledge of financial support and service will go to a good cause and at the same time deepen and enrich your relationship with your church, so hopefully you can pledge with a sense of joy and love. However you might think about this, I sincerely hope you feel you have a stake and a say in your church, and that you can be the someone who does what's closest to your heart.



Walter Gassmann
Board President

MINISTER'S MONTHLY MUSINGS

IN THE SERVICE OF LOVE . . .



The theme for this year's Annual Canvass sponsored by the Generosity Team is "UUs in the service of Love." Probably in few cases in our relationship with organizations do we find ourselves as simultaneously both beneficiaries and trustees. This is what happens when we support this church financially and voluntarily. As to our volunteerism, we have an unusually high ratio of leadership and participation – something for which we can be very pleased. Your Board of Trustees launched into a leadership development project, but before the jump, the question was asked, "How many members and friends are already engaged in leadership in the church?" Your staff did a survey of the directory with four levels of leadership/participation and came up with a surprising result.

Half of the congregation is involved at some level of church life! For the two top levels of participation and leadership, we have 20% engaged! This indicates we are doing something very well!

I believe it substantiates the theme of the Canvass. What is now a part of that service is to support the church to the fullest extent possible with financial contributions when a canvasser meets with each of you. I trust with the hope now present in our nation, we can extend it to our church in the service of Love.

Peace and Love,
Bill

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



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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
Visit our Website: www.uuchurch.net



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