

# UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
An Emerging UUA Congregation

May 2006  
No. 3 Vol. 1

## May is Bursting With UU Activity

### **The Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship Will Elect Its First Board of Trustees May 21**

After a wonderful first year of growth, the Mt. Vernon Fellowship is taking an important step toward becoming an official UU organization and a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Since officially adopting the bylaws of our fellowship at our April 23 service, we are set to elect our first sitting Board of Trustees.

Nominations for the five board positions may be made up until the time of the election on May 21; however, to be included on the pre-printed ballot, nominations must be received by 12 noon on Sunday, May 14. The five positions on the board are: Cochairs (3), Secretary (1), and Treasurer (1). You may either nominate yourself or another person

for the board in any position. If you wish to nominate someone else, please speak with them ahead of time to ensure their interest and cooperation. Nominations may be given to any member of the bylaws committee (Adam, Beth, Vito, or Glenda) or sent directly to Shannon at [moonstander@charter.net](mailto:moonstander@charter.net)

### **May Services to Host Two Important Guest Speakers: Jennifer Debusk and Jennifer Goodey**

**M**ay will both begin and end with guest speakers that will ask us to consider the world around us, and consider our roles and responsibilities in caring for it.

Jennifer Debusk, Intern Minister at Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood, Mo, will

present a sermon on May 7 entitled, "Seeking Eden."

Jennifer is a California native who will graduate this May from Seminary at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, Ca. Jennifer's ministerial interests are focused on community building and social justice outreach. She has forged several interfaith partnerships between Eliot Unitarian Chapel and local nonprofits including Habitat for Humanity, International Institute, and Americorps.

Her sermon, "Seeking Eden" will connect us with the celebration of Earth Day. She will discuss how the past and present come alive through nature's mysterious web of creation. Although Earth Day is traditionally celebrated in April, we will extend this wonderful holiday into May for this special occasion.

On May 28, Jennifer Goodey of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship will lead us with a special service entitled, "Bread for the World: An Offering of Letters".

This service will include a short discussion of world poverty, led by Jennifer. She will also show a short video on the subject. After the

discussion and video, Jennifer will explain to us about the organization Bread for the World, and ask us to submit letters on its behalf to bring an end to world hunger.

Please join us for these two Sundays, May 7 and May 28.

*"I believe in God- only I spell it nature."*

*~Frank Lloyd Wright*

Would you prefer to receive our Monthly UU Matters Newsletter in a PDF document by email?

Choosing this option is both more friendly to the earth by saving paper, and more friendly to our budget by saving postage.

To change your subscription to email only, send an email to Shannon at [moonstander@charter.net](mailto:moonstander@charter.net)

*" Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part"*

*~The Seventh Principle of the UUA*

## *In other matters...*

### **Upcoming Services**

- ✿ May 7: Jennifer Debusk, Intern Minister will lead service, "Seeking Eden." in honor of Earth Day
- ✿ May 14: Kelly & Shannon will lead a "Young at Heart" Mother's Day Service
- ✿ May 21: Open Reading Service
- ✿ May 28: Jennifer Goodey will speak on "Bread for the World" and request an offering of letters.

### **Chalice Group Happenings**

**O**ur Chalice Group meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month to discuss issues of everyday life, spirituality, faith, worship, sadness, and many other issues. We also plan to get involved in some community work in the future. All are welcome.

Our May 10 meeting topic is "Living Simply." Thanks to those who came to April's group meeting. It was wonderful sharing a first Spring evening on the porch with you all!

### **Open Minds**

**O**ur Open Minds group meets on the third Wednesday of each month and is facilitated by Vito Mastrangelo.

May's discussion topic will be our health care system and alternative health care, with a screening of a video exploring the significance of the mind-body connection in patient treatment. We may have a guest speaker as well.

### **Workshops Scheduled for May 6 & 13 at Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood, Mo. Can you come?**

**T**here are two upcoming workshops happening in Kirkwood, Mo on May 6 & 13. These workshops are designed for the emerging congregations in the southern Illinois and Missouri areas.

The May 6 workshop is called "Starting a New UU Congregation for emerging & Forming Religious Communities- How to get Started, Create Systems and Develop Organization & Programs." The cost for this workshop is \$20 but the church can cover this cost for anyone

who needs assistance in order to come. There will also be transportation provided.

The May 13 Workshop is designed to cover the topic of "Marketing Your Congregation." This workshop is free of charge. We have no one committed for this workshop yet, and it would be very nice to send a group to each workshop.

Please contact Shannon at [moonstander@charter.net](mailto:moonstander@charter.net) if you can come to either of these workshops.

## **Mt. Vernon City Wide Clean Up is May 6.**

If you are interested in helping clean up the grounds near our Fellowship, please contact Beth or Vito for more information.

## **Religious Education**

The first bullet in our congregation's mission statement says that we strive to "Enable spiritual, intellectual, ethical, and emotional growth for all ages." It is time for us to seriously begin considering what religious

education programs we want to offer for the children and future children of our congregation.

Some short term ideas have emerged to meet the immediate needs of the congregation. One of these is the introduction of the Nature table in the main sanctuary. Bringing items of interest into the church will help build bonds and bridge interests in the world around us between the adults and children of our congregation. Other ideas for Sunday services have included painting activities, story reading, and activities involving social justice and nature.

A sustainable Children's Religious Education program will take a lot of work, planning, and commitment. If you are willing to help in this aspect of church planning and wish to be on a Religious Education Committee, please speak with Shannon. Little could be more important than the education of our children.

*"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted."*

*~Garrison Keillor*

## Business Matters

We hold a business and organizational meeting every month. This meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This month's meeting is scheduled for May 2.

The main topic of the May meeting will be the formation of the Board of Trustees and the progress of the Chalice Lighter's Grant. Other issues will also be discussed. All are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

## General Assembly is Coming Up! June 21-25 in St. Louis

Registration forms and additional information about this are available online at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) for this wonderful event. The cost of registering is cheaper the earlier you register, so if you are thinking about going, you might want to check this out.

## Your assistance is requested in the following matters.....

- ▶ Large, cork style bulletin boards could be used by the Fellowship. If you have one in good condition, please bring it to the church.
- ▶ Volunteers are needed to do light office type work. Please contact Shannon if you are able to donate your time.

## Fellowship Contact Information

If you are looking for more information about the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or would like to be added to our mailing list, you can do so in the following ways:

- ▶ **By Mail:** The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 1600 Isabella Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
- ▶ **By Phone:** (618) 241-9644. Please leave a voice mail message.
- ▶ **By email:** For the present time you can contact Shannon Green through her email address at [moonstander@charter.net](mailto:moonstander@charter.net)