

UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
An Emerging UUA Congregation

June 2006
No. 4 Vol. 1

Congratulations to Our Founding Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship Members and First Board of Trustees!

May 21 marked our First Annual Congregational Meeting and Board of Trustees Election

After adopting our bylaws on April 23, our fellowship began taking membership forms in preparation for its first Annual meeting and election. Fifteen people made the choice to become founding members of the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. On May 21, our members unanimously elected our first Board of Trustees. Those elected were as follows:

- ⚙ Kelly Taylor, Secretary
- ⚙ Paul Oakley, Treasurer
- ⚙ Glenda Ruth Eubanks, Cochair
- ⚙ Randall Farrar, Cochair
- ⚙ Shannon Green, Cochair

The adoption of the bylaws, opening of membership, and election of a board of trustees are of monumental importance to our fellowship's growth and success. These actions affirm our commitment to supporting the seven principles and purposes of the UUA, our intention of becoming a member congregation of the UUA, and our efforts to become self-governing and self-supporting as a congregation.

The election of the board helps to ensure the continued success of our fellowship and commits its trustees to the following, taken from our bylaws:

- Furthering activities in support of the fellowship's purpose, vision, and mission.
- Ensuring economic stability.
- Providing a safe and attractive facility in which to worship,

- meet, and study.
- Providing religious education to all ages.
- Promoting community social action.
- Exercising leadership for continued quality and improvement.

Good luck to all of our elected Board Members in living up to these ideals and furthering the cause of Unitarian Universalism in Southern Illinois!

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

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

~Mahatma Ghandi

June Collection Drive to Support The Amy Center in Mt. Vernon

Diane Schwitz, MVUUF member, has offered to organize a June collection to benefit the Amy Center in Mt. Vernon during the month of June.

Bring new stuffed animals, children's blankets, and/or cash donations to the Fellowship. Diane will deliver these donations to the Amy Center during the first week of July.

Paul Oakley and Walter Lazenby to host "Love Feast" June 11

Paul and Walter have graciously invited everyone to join them in their Mt. Vernon home for a brunch meal immediately after the June 11 service in place of Coffee Hour at the fellowship. Paul and Walter live at 39 Webster Hill Estates in Mt. Vernon. For directions call Paul at 618-214-0340.

In other matters...

Upcoming Services

All Services begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please Join Us!

- ☉ June 4: Dennis Arnold will lead us in a service discussing and exploring the religion of Islam. Diane Schwitz will speak briefly about a June collection drive for the Amy Center.
- ☉ June 11: Adam Stone will lead this service. Three of our members, Randall Farrar, Glenda Eubanks, and Saribenne Evesong, will bring us accounts of their experiences at new congregation workshops held in May. *This service will be followed by a brunch at the home of Paul Oakley and Walter Lazenby in lieu of coffee hour at the fellowship.*
- ☉ June 18: This is our Open Reading service, held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Members are asked to bring meaningful contributions to this morning's worship service.
- ☉ June 25: The service will be lead by Paul Oakley.

Chalice Group Happenings

Our Chalice Group meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. June's meeting will be held on June 14. This month's discussion topic will be "Mentors."

A Chalice Group is also known as small group ministry. It is a small discussion group that covers many topics. There is always an open seat for anyone who wants to be there. Call Shannon (242-3557) for more details.

Open Minds

The Mt. Vernon Open Minds Discussion group will meet next on Wednesday, June 21, 2006, to celebrate the Summer Solstice. Please join us for this open conversation. Feel free to bring readings or demonstrations to share with the group.

"In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures."
~Khalil Gibran

Business Matters

Our next business meeting will be held on June 6 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be the first regular meeting of the newly elected board, though all persons interested in attending the meeting are encouraged to do so.

On the agenda of the June meeting are some of the following items: scheduling a new regular business meeting time that is convenient for everyone, purchasing new seating for the congregation, implementing the next step in our plan for registering our newly created non-profit entity, and discussing the current status of our Chalice Lighter's grant proposal. We will also discuss future plans for our service schedule.

General Assembly is June 21-25

Registration forms and additional information about the UUA General Assembly is available at www.uua.org. Register soon!

Your Assistance is Requested in the Following Matters...

Our fellowship is lay-led and depends on its members to be a self-sustaining and meaningful place of worship, camaraderie, and service. We could use many items to make a more comfortable environment for everyone.

These things are needed:

- ▶ Your time and talent. Please see a member of the board if you would like to donate time.
- ▶ Volunteers in the office
- ▶ Bulletin boards or cork boards in good condition.
- ▶ Bookshelves
- ▶ A small end table
- ▶ Comfortable reading chair for library room
- ▶ An additional de-humidifier
- ▶ Large Tables
- ▶ Chairs for use during services and downstairs
- ▶ Coffee, toilet paper, and paper towels.
- ▶ Financial contributions are always appreciated.

Thank You!

Thank you to all of our members for making this fellowship what it is. Specifically, we would like to thank the following people:

- ☺ Vito Mastrangelo and Adam Stone for their work in creating our affidavit for incorporation under the Religious Corporations Act
- ☺ Adam Stone for facilitating the May 21 election
- ☺ Diane Schwitz, Randy Farrar and the Green-Stone Family for their help at our May Church Clean Up
- ☺ Dennis Arnold for the coffee and tea pots we use during services

*“When I first open my eyes upon the morning meadows and look out upon the beautiful world, I thank God I am alive.”
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

June Quick Calendar:

- ✓ June 4: 10:00 a.m. Service, Dennis Arnold will speak about Islam
- ✓ June 6: Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ June 11: 10:00 a.m. Service, Workshop Summaries
- ✓ June 11: “Love Feast” Brunch after Service at Paul & Walter’s home
- ✓ June 14: Chalice Group 6:30 -8 p.m.
- ✓ June 18: Open Reading Service
- ✓ June 21: Open Minds 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ June 21-25 General Assembly in St. Louis
- ✓ June 25: 10:00 a.m. Service, Paul Oakley to lead.

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