

UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
An Emerging UUA Congregation

July 2006
No. 5 Vol. 1

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness:

July Brings us Independence Day!

As we celebrate Independence Day this July, let us remember to be thankful for, celebrate, and practice the religious freedoms upon which our country was founded. When we exercise religious freedom, we help to promote tolerance and respect for diversity, and we help to bring constructive dialogue to our community! This July, we hope each member of the fellowship will take some time to reflect upon the true meaning of religious freedom, and will take a moment to consider what religious freedom means in that member's life. As Albert Einstein said: "All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life,

lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom."

... and The MVUUF Gains Financial Independence!

In addition to celebrating our religious freedom, we can also now celebrate our financial freedom. At the end of June, Paul Oakley, the fellowship's newly elected Treasurer, opened a checking account in the name of the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Offerings for the MVUUF no longer need to be sent to Carbondale.

Your tax deductible financial contributions may now be made by a check payable to the Mt.

Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. You may leave offerings during Sunday Services or mail them to the fellowship at 1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL, 62864. Thank you to all who have been supporting the fellowship's work as we have grown!

Collection Drive to Support The Amy Center in Mt. Vernon Ends July 2

Diane Schwitz, MVUUF member, has offered to organize a collection to benefit the Amy Center in Mt. Vernon. The Amy Center helps children who have been sexually abused. Each child who comes to the center receives a new comfort item to bring them support during the difficult times they are facing.

Diane will deliver these donations to the Amy Center after the July 2 service. So far, we have collected many great items, and we thank everyone who has made a contribution so far!

Are you a Trivia Whiz?

Even if you are not, we need your help. The King City Theater Company is holding its third annual "Trivia Night: Trivia with a Dramatic Difference" on Saturday, September 23 at 7 p.m. to raise funds for its upcoming productions. One of those productions is MVUUF member Adam Stone's original musical "Little Egypt is My Home," which is set in southern Illinois and will be produced by the company in Spring 2007.

Teams of 8 people are needed to compete in the trivia contest. The questions cover a wide range of material and are often quite funny and fun! There is no need to be a genius for this event. Shannon and Adam are hoping to put together a team from the MVUUF. Let's get out and support community theater together! Call Shannon or Adam for more details (242-3557).

In other matters...

Upcoming Services

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

- ☼ July 2: Shannon Green will lead a service for Independence Day
- ☼ July 9: Adam Stone and Vicki Doetsch will lead. Vicki will present a message on the topic of "Theism and Its Alternatives"
- ☼ July 16: Randy Farrar will lead an Open Reading Service. All who attend this service are invited to bring readings, poems, artwork, music, or other items of significance to share.
- ☼ July 23 & 30: Plans are still being arranged for these services. Roy Sumner and Vennie Anderson from Carbondale are hoping to arrange to speak to our congregations these dates. Look for email updates for more information.

Chalice Group Happenings

Our Chalice Group meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. July's meeting will be held on July 12. This month's discussion topic will be "Prayer."

A Chalice Group is also known as small group ministry. It is a small discussion group that covers many topics. These small group discussions help build strength and positive relationships within the group. There is always an open seat for anyone who wants to be there. Call Shannon (242-3557) for more details.

Open Minds

The Open Minds Discussion Group will meet again on the third Wednesday of next month-- July 19, 2006--and we will screen the presentation "Freedom Files: Gay and Lesbian Rights", with a discussion to follow. We'd love for you to join us!

Business Matters

Our next board meeting will be held on July 5 at 6:30 p.m. MVUUF board meetings are open to anyone who is interested in participating in the business aspect of our fellowship life.

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

“If I have been of service, if I have glimpsed more of the nature and essence of ultimate good, if I am inspired to reach wider horizons of thought and action, if I am at peace with myself, it has been a successful day.” ~ Alex Noble

Religious Education

Our formal children’s religious education program has officially begun! During the last Sunday in June, 3 of the children in our congregation (Alex, Adriana, and Isaiah) worked together to create a paper quilt celebrating the diversity in their family traditions. They worked hard to create a display showcasing their activity downstairs. Check it out!

The children really seemed to enjoy and learn from their experience. If you would be willing to lead a Children’s program any Sunday morning, let a member of the board know. If you aren’t sure what to do, others can help! A Religious Education Committee is being formed right now; we could really use you!

“We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet forget that he is someone today”

~ Stacia Tauscher

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:

- ▶ Lay Leaders are needed for upcoming services.
- ▶ Lay Leaders are needed for Children's Religious Education Programs.
- ▶ Volunteers in the office to help create a filing and archival system.
- ▶ Bulletin boards or cork boards in good condition.
- ▶ Bookshelves
- ▶ 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:

- ☺ Randy Farrar for the donation of new chairs for the sanctuary.
- ☺ Paul Oakley for the donation of new hymnals for the fellowship.
- ☺ Paul Oakley and Walter Lazenby for the wonderful Champagne Brunch.
- ☺ Glenda Eubanks, Saribenne Evesong, and Randy Farrar for attending workshops and giving us presentations on June 11.
- ☺ Nina Peacock for leading a Summer Solstice Celebration at last months Open Minds Group
- ☺ All of you who attend each Sunday and share your lives with us!

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 emailing a member of the board:
 - Shannon Green, Cochair
moonstander@charter.net
 - Glenda Eubanks, Cochair
gatherings@mvn.net
 - Randy Farrar, Cochair
rsfarrar@charter.net
 - Paul Oakley, Treasurer
poakley0615@charter.net
 - Kelly Taylor, Secretary
soulo25@yahoo.com

The Seven Principles of The Unitarian Universalist Association

- ★ 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.

July Quick Calendar:

- July 2: Service, 10:00 a.m.
- July 5: Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- July 9: Service 10:00 a.m.
- July 12: Chalice Group, 6:30 p.m.
- July 16: Service, 10:00 a.m.
- July 19: Open Minds Discussion, 6:30 p.m.
- July 23: Service, 10:00 a.m.
- July 30: Service, 10:00 a.m.