

UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
An Emerging UUA Congregation

August 2006
No. 6 Vol. 1

Remembering Our Friend and Founding Member, Randy Farrar

July was a sad month for the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We said goodbye to a good friend and fellow Unitarian. Randy Farrar was the founding member of our fellowship, purchasing our building and putting out the call to build a Unitarian Universalist congregation in the Mt. Vernon area. He will be missed by us all.

We held a Memorial Service for Randy at the fellowship building on July 16. The Carbondale Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will hold a Memorial Service and Reception honoring Randy on Saturday, August 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please attend if you are able!

A little background about Randy, for those who are not aware of his contributions to our

fellowship: in late 2004, Randy, who had been attending the Carbondale fellowship for several years, decided to "bring Unitarianism to Mount Vernon." He purchased the former Faith Lutheran Church, located at 1600 Isabella Drive in Mount Vernon in December 2004. A small group from the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship began planning meetings in January 2005, and informational meetings open to the public began in March 2005. A core group began to form, and regular meetings and services have been held ever since. We have grown to a fellowship with 15 committed members, as well as many other regular attendees and interested persons. We will continue to grow and expand in Mt. Vernon, but we will never

forget Randy's generous contributions, his excitement and enthusiasm about Unitarianism, and his warm personality and sense of humor.

Collections for Amy Center Much Appreciated

Diane Schwitz delivered the items collected in June to the Amy Center last month. After dropping them off, Diane had this to say, "LaDonna Richards, the director, was so thrilled and wanted me to convey her thanks and appreciation to the fellowship. She and the secretary looked at a lot of the things and were so impressed, and as I was leaving, I heard her say 'And everything is new!' The fellowship collected at least a dozen stuffed animals, some dolls, matchbox cars, books, other small toys, and about a dozen fleece blankets of various sizes, plus some monetary gifts...Thanks for your help and encouragement on this project. My fervent wish is that these items comfort children."

Trivia Night Fundraiser

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! 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).

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can

~George Bernard Shaw

In other matters...

Upcoming Services

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

- ☼ August 6: Dennis Arnold will lead this service titled, "The First Cause Argument." Following the service, the fellowship will host a birthday party for Lily Taylor who is turning 3 this month!
- ☼ August 13: David Christensen from Carbondale will be joining us with a special message entitled, "Religion and Healing the World." Paul Oakley will lead this service.
- ☼ August 20: Vito Mastrangelo will lead this month's Open Reading Service. All in attendance are asked to bring a reading, music, or other relevant material to share.
- ☼ August 27: Paul Oakley will lead this service titled, "Coming out as a UU."

Chalice Group Happenings

Our Chalice Group meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

August's discussion topic will be "A Sacred Place."

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 meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The August 16 discussion topic will be "Freedom of Religion," with a showing of a short film produced by the ACLU prior to the discussion.

Business Matters

Our regular monthly business meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on August 2, with the following meeting to be held September 6.

Items up for Discussion in August include the appointment of a member to the Board of Trustees to fill the position held by Randy Farrar, the creation and approval of pledge forms for budgeting purposes, the creation of several new committees, and the current status of our utility and maintenance situations.

Each of our board meetings is held at the fellowship building and is open to everyone. Every voice is valuable.

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

~Anne Frank

Treasury Matters

We started the month of July and our new fiscal year with \$2,565.55 in cash. \$300.00 of this was restricted by the donor to use in purchasing a piano.

In the period from July 1-27, contributions were in four categories: \$435.00 unrestricted by the donor; \$900.00 for the Randy Farrar memorial fund; \$376.74 for the piano fund; and \$100.00 for the purchase of materials for use in the Religious Education (RE) program which is in development. \$530.00 of the \$900.00 given to the Randy Farrar memorial fund was from sources outside our congregation. In addition to the gifts of money, a \$139.00 in-kind gift was given: ten copies of *Singing the Journey*, which is a supplement to our main hymnal, with 75 more contemporary songs.

Our expenditures from unrestricted funds for the same period were: \$600.00 for rent (current month plus one previous month); \$156.71 for utilities; and \$107.75 for flowers for Randy

Farrar's funeral.

We also emptied the piano fund by spending \$676.74 for a Casio Celviano AP-24 Digital Piano, plus a two-year extended warranty.

So, at the time the newsletter was going to press, MVUUF had \$2,836.09, of which \$900.00 was restricted for the Randy Farrar memorial fund and \$100.00 for RE materials, leaving \$1,836.09 available for general uses.

If you made any additional in-kind gifts, please submit receipts or other documentation of the market value at the time of the donation so that 1) our records can be accurate and 2) you can receive documentation of your full contribution for you to use at tax time. Also, if you have spent any money out of pocket for usual and customary church expenditures, please bring your receipts to provide documentation to support reimbursement.

Blessings,

Paul Kent Oakley, Treasurer

Religious Education

Our Religious Education Programs for Children have begun to take a priority for our fellowship. In July, the children of our fellowship learned about some famous Unitarians and talked about the cultures of ancient Egypt.

We are currently forming a Religious Education Committee and asking for volunteers to lead Sunday programs for the children of our congregation. Please let a board member know if you are interested in helping out.

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

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. These things would help make the fellowship more enriching for everyone:

- ▶ Lay Leaders are needed for Children's Religious Education Programs.
- ▶ Volunteers to help create a filing and archival system.
- ▶ Bulletin boards or cork boards in good condition.
- ▶ Bookshelves for the Children's area.
- ▶ Children's books that support Unitarian Universalist values.

Universalists are often asked where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all, we move.

~L.B. Fisher

August Quick Calendar:

Aug 2: Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Aug 5: Memorial and Reception for Randy Farrar at Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship 10:00-1:00

Aug 6: Service 10:00 a.m. Birthday Party for Lily Taylor to follow.

Aug 9: Chalice Group, 6:30-8:00

Aug 13: Service, 10:00 a.m.

Aug 16: Open Minds, 6:30 p.m.

Aug 20: Service, 10:00 a.m.

Aug 27: Service, 10:00 a.m.

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:

- ☺ Diane Schwitz for organizing the Amy Center Collection Drive.
- ☺ Saribenne Evesong and our anonymous donor for helping us to obtain a new digital piano for the sanctuary.

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
 - 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.

MVUUF Kids Matter Word Search

Have fun finding these words and learning more about UU!

U	P	T	A	A	U	N	I	N	C	T
N	R	E	L	C	N	C	A	R	S	L
I	I	I	A	C	I	J	T	N	A	L
V	N	S	I	E	T	U	C	D	W	R
E	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N
R	I	C	C	T	R	T	E	V	R	S
S	P	H	E	A	I	I	A	E	T	N
A	L	A	E	N	A	C	R	R	H	N
L	E	L	I	C	N	E	C	S	E	P
I	S	I	W	E	B	A	H	I	O	D
S	C	C	I	I	P	O	L	T	I	I
T	P	E	A	C	E	A	S	Y	I	U

Acceptance	Chalice	Compassion
Diversity	Justice	Peace
Principles	Search	Unitarian
Universalist	Web	Worth

You can
color this
chalice!

