

# UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
An Emerging UUA Congregation

October 2006  
Vol. 1 No. 8

## Our Heritage of Growth, Looking back and Moving Forward

**B**ill Sasso,  
Minister of the  
Carbondale Unitarian

Fellowship, will be joining our fellowship to offer a sermon entitled, "Our Heritage of Growth," Sunday, October 1 at 10:00 a.m.

In his Sermon, Bill will discuss the local heritage of Unitarian Universalism in the Midwest, in Southern Illinois, and beyond. Who were the first Unitarians and Universalists to come to this area, and what did they believe? What were the challenges they faced?

What similarities and differences will we find to our own struggle to bring a Unitarian Universalist church to this area? What can we learn from our Unitarian and Universalist pasts

to help pave the way for a strong and successful congregation of our own?

### Are You Interested in Learning More about Unitarian Universalist History?

**R**oots is a four-session course on the history of our Unitarian Universalist movement, open to adults and teens. "Roots" uses both short assigned readings and discussion to consider both the larger history of our movement on the North American continent and the more specific stories of our movement here in southern Illinois.

Bill Sasso will lead this program on alternate Thursday

evenings, 7:30 pm to 9 pm, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. To register for the program, or for more information, please contact Bill at 529-2439 or

[bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com), or Shannon at 242-3557 or [moonstander@charter.net](mailto:moonstander@charter.net).

### Join Us For Trick-or-Treating at The Fellowship October 31

**H**alloween, All Hallow's Eve, Samhain, or whatever you may choose to call it is upon us again. Please join us for a small gathering at the Fellowship on October 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. as for the second year in a row we hand out candy to neighborhood children. Last year was a blast! Ask anyone who was there - this is a great opportunity for us to relax together as a congregation, while making connections with our greater community in a fun and friendly way. Costumes are optional, but certainly fun!

### Second Annual Back Pack Drive for the Students at Mt. Vernon Primary Center Ends Soon!

**L**ast fall, our fellowship collected over 20 new back packs for needy children at the Mt. Vernon Primary Center. The school was very appreciative and the back packs had been given to students within a few weeks. It was a stark reminder that many people in our community don't have the basic tools they need to succeed in school! We can help change that!

This fall, we hope to meet or exceed last year's drive results! So far, we've collected 5 back packs and a \$5 cash donation. Please bring new back packs to the fellowship through the end of October. Cash donations may also be made towards the purchase of back packs for the drive.

*"October is a symphony of permanence and change."  
~Bonaro W. Overstreet*

## *In Other Matters...*

### **Upcoming Services**

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

- ☼ October 1: Adam Stone will lead the service and introduce guest speaker Bill Sasso, who will present "Our Heritage of Growth," an examination of our Unitarian Universalist roots in Southern Illinois
- ☼ October 8: Adam Stone will lead this service and deliver a message entitled, "Born Again Unitarian Universalism"
- ☼ October 15: Open Reading service, led by Vito Mastrangelo
- ☼ October 22: Beth Brennan will lead the service and introduce Nina Peacock, who will lead us through a guided meditation!
- ☼ October 29: Paul Oakley will lead a service entitled, "To Love An Alien"

### **Chalice Group**

**O**ur Chalice Group, meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us; we always have an open seat!

A Chalice Group is also known as small group ministry, and encourages personal exploration, while building stronger bonds within the group.

October's meeting will be held on October 11. This month's discussion topic will be a continuation of last month's topic, "Questions of Faith."

### **Open Minds**

**T**he Open Minds Discussion Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month. October's meeting will be held October 18 at 6:30 p.m. This month's discussion topic will be "Voter's Rights," and will provide a timely pre-election examination of this important subject!

## Library Matters

In August, we were blessed to receive a wonderful donation from Randy Farrar's family of many of Randy's books. Most are on religious or philosophical topics. It is quite an eclectic collection. This acquisition truly gives us a head start on a real library collection. As an avid book lover and former library technical services specialist, I volunteered to organize the fellowship's library and am thrilled that the board has taken me up on my offer. It has given me an opportunity to examine the collection, keep up my cataloging skills on a small scale, and reaffirm my love of books. A win, win, win situation for me indeed!

I hope, by now, that most of you have had a chance to look through the books and perhaps borrow a few. There had been several donations prior to receiving Randy's collection. I know where most of those came from. If you have left any books or other media in the library that you intended to be on short term

loan only, please let me know, so that I don't add them permanently to the fellowship's collection. Also, if you made a donation that was not clearly marked as a gift from you, would you please also let me know, so we can acknowledge your donation with a book plate.

Also, a special thank you to Shannon Green for donating the book: "Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy", upon which she based a recent service. Thanks also to Paul Oakley for his recent donation of several books. (I haven't yet had the opportunity to examine them closely, but there are about a dozen!) It will take me a while to get everything entered into a database, but if you have books or materials you'd like to donate, we would welcome them. (We could also really use bookcases, if anyone has one they'd like to donate!)

Thanks and happy reading!  
Beth Brennan

*"A room without books is like a body without a soul." ~ Cicero*

## Religious Education

**R**oy Sumner, Director of Religious Education at the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship spoke with us September 24 about Carbondale's Religious Education Program. He brought a lot of information and experience with him, as well as much needed enthusiasm for the importance of children.

The first principle of the Unitarian Universalist Association declares the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The children's version of that simply reads: "Each person is important." The first Children's RE program in October will celebrate just that, the importance of everyone, and of each unique child in our congregation. If you want to help our children's programs succeed, ask someone on the new RE committee what you can do. More details on this are in the business section of the newsletter.

*A good example is the best sermon.*  
~Thomas Fuller

## Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings and New Committees, Join Now!

**T**he MVUUF Board of Trustees meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The board will meet again on October 4, and then on November 1st. Board meetings are always open to everyone who wants to attend and are a great way to get more involved in church matters.

As of late, the board has been working diligently to create new committees to help our fellowship function more smoothly. These committees divide up the goals of the fellowship, and allow people to help in ways that are interesting to them. Joining a committee is also a great way to make connections and form bonds with others in the fellowship.

The following committees have been formed, and are ready for you! It takes many voices to run a fellowship like ours. If you want to join a committee, or just want more information about it,

tell a member whose name appears next to it on the list that you are interested. More detailed descriptions are available at the fellowship on the back table.

- ☞ **Nominating Committee**  
(Beth Brennan, Adam Stone)
- ☞ **Religious Education (RE) Committee**  
(Shannon Green, Glenda Eubanks, Vicki Doetsch)
- ☞ **Memorial Committee**  
(Adam Stone)
- ☞ **Music Committee**  
(Paul Oakley, Angela Czapiewski)
- ☞ **Publications and Library (PAL) Committee**  
(Shannon Green, Vito Mastrangelo, Beth Brennan)
- ☞ **Welcoming and Hospitality (WAH) Committee**  
(Glenda Eubanks, Vito Mastrangelo)
- ☞ **A Building and Grounds Maintenance Committee** is also being formed, though details on that are still in draft form.



## Treasury Matters

The Treasurer's report will be on the table at the back of the church on the first Sunday after the Board Meeting each month. If you would like more detail than it provides, feel free to ask me.

If you would like to mail contributions instead of putting them in the offering basket, you may mail them to:

MVUUF  
c/o Paul Oakley  
39 Webster Hill Est.  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Or to:

MVUUF  
1600 Isabella Ave.  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Please make checks payable to MVUUF.

Blessings!

Paul Kent Oakley, Treasurer

A friend may well be reckoned the  
masterpiece of nature.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Chalice Lighters Grant Awarded on Behalf of Mt. Vernon and Cape Girardeau Fellowships

The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship has been helping the Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship from the very beginning. Without the initial planning and support provided to Glenda Eubanks and Randy Farrar, we would not exist in the capacity that we do.

Not only has Carbondale offered ongoing support to our Fellowship, but they have been simultaneously helping develop a congregation in Cape Girardeau. It has been an awesome task to say the least, but all three congregations have been working diligently to make it happen.

One way in which Carbondale helped tremendously was by submitting a Grant to the UUA's Chalice Lighters Program on behalf of both of our congregations, and providing funds from its own congregation for our use. We received the exciting news recently that we

were awarded the grant funds. We have many exciting things planned for our future, and much more work to do to make liberal religion an ongoing and vital part of the Mt. Vernon Community.

Thanks for the hard work that was put into this grant from all three congregations, and a special thank you to Carbondale for having such faith in us!

*"This is all a dream we dreamed one  
afternoon, long ago"*  
~Robert Hunter

## 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:

- ☺ Nina Peacock, for hosting a Labyrinth Walk and lunch at her home in celebration of the Equinox.
- ☺ Paul Oakley and Shannon Green for the donation of books.
- ☺ Angela Czapiewski for the donation of bulletin boards.

## Your Assistance is Requested in the Following Matters...

Every month we put out the call to our fellowship for needed items and volunteers. If you can help with any of the following items, let a board member know!

- ❑ Volunteers to lead services or present sermons - this isn't as hard as it may look! You may write your own sermon, or read one you have found in a book or on the internet. There are many resources out there. If you have any questions, please see a board member for more details.
- ❑ Book Shelves are needed for the Lending Library and Children's Area.
- ❑ Volunteers are needed to assist with Children's Programs. Whether you're interested in conducting your own program, or just assisting with one that's already been prepared by someone else, your help will be greatly appreciated!

## 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:

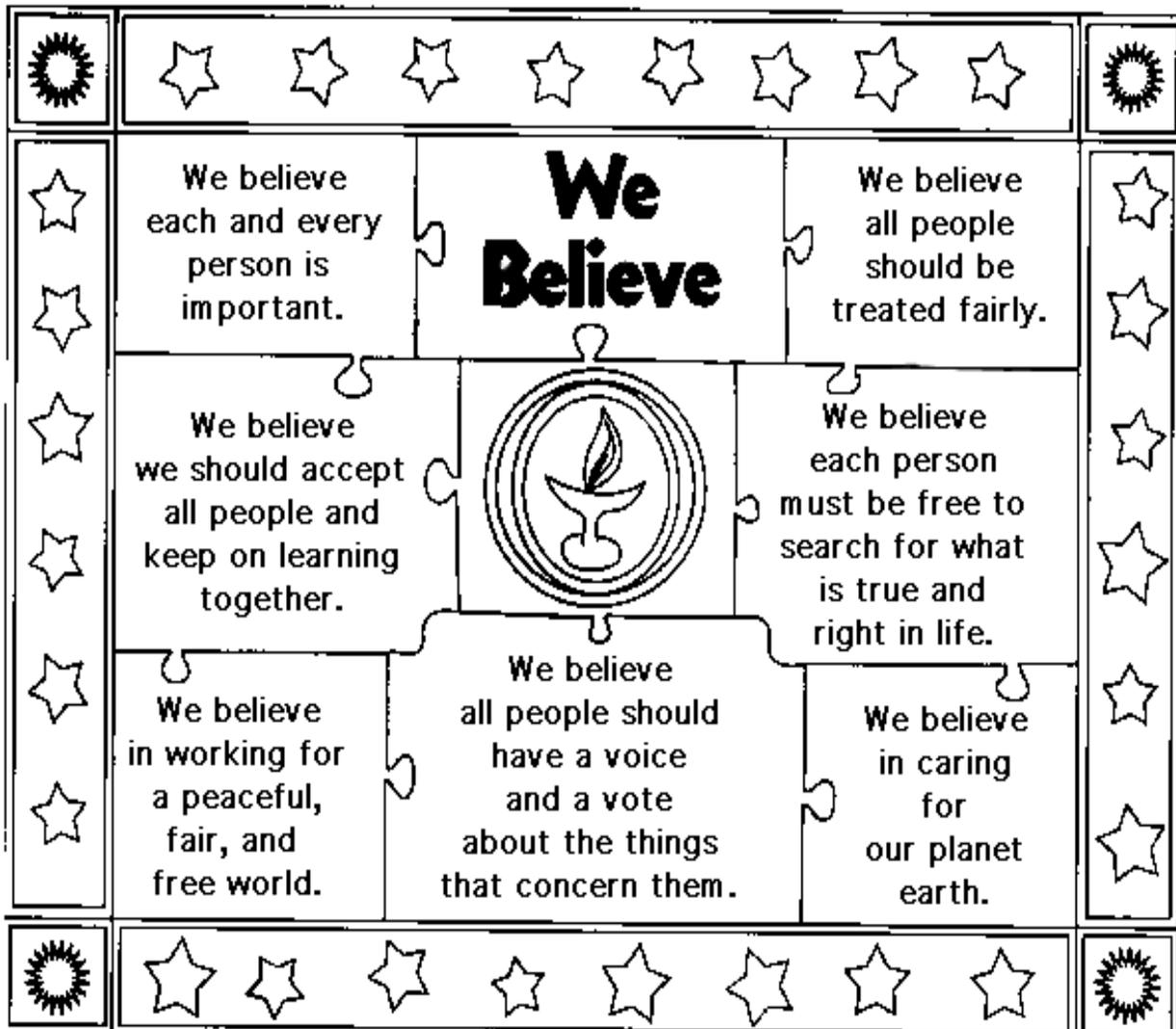
- ▶ By Mail: The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 1600 Isabella Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
- ▶ By Phone: (618) 241-9644. Please leave a voice mail message.
- ▶ By emailing a member of the board:
  - Shannon Green, Cochair  
[moonstander@charter.net](mailto:moonstander@charter.net)
  - Glenda Eubanks, Cochair  
[gatherings@mvn.net](mailto:gatherings@mvn.net)
  - Vito Mastrangelo, Cochair  
[bethvito@mvn.net](mailto:bethvito@mvn.net)
  - Paul Oakley, Treasurer  
[poakley0615@charter.net](mailto:poakley0615@charter.net)

# UU KIDS MATTER

Unitarians have many different belief systems,  
but we tend to agree on some things.

What do you believe?

You can color this while you think  
about the answer to that question.



## We Believe Poster

by  
Maureen Chen



Using markers, colored pencils, or crayons, color this poster however you like. Photocopy the drawing before you color it if you want to make more than one poster.