

UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
An Emerging UUA Congregation

November 2006
Vol. 1 No. 9

Thankful For Each and Every One of Us, For the Unique Contributions We All Make

Every November we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. We set aside this time to consider what we are thankful for, to practice gratitude, and count our blessings.

Thank you to those who lead services and programs, donate items, complete administrative tasks, make coffee for social hour, clean up the church, or mow the lawn. Thanks to everyone who contributes time, talent, or money to the sustainability of our fellowship.

Thank you as well for the simple act of being who you are. Thank you for your willingness to share that person with us. Our Fellowship is a meaningful place because of the individuals who walk through our door each week. Each of us brings our own gifts,

interests, and personalities to MVUUF. What we have created at our Fellowship would be meaningless without the personal interactions we experience together, and the relationships we have developed over time.

Thank you for the smiles at the door, the hugs when they are needed, the stimulating conversations, diverse view points, and especially for the opportunity to embrace new friendships and grow spiritually together.

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person.

Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Albert Schweitzer

In Other Matters...

Upcoming Services

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

- ❁ November 5: Shannon Green will lead this service discussing life's blessings and a sermon entitled, "Spiritual Gratitude."
- ❁ November 12: Dennis Arnold will discuss developing a religious philosophy with a service entitled, "Your Place in the Universe."
- ❁ November 19: We are still looking for a leader for this Open Reading Service. Open Reading Services are on the third Sunday of each month. Those in attendance are encouraged to bring short readings, music, artwork or other relevant materials to share during the service.
- ❁ November 26: Plans are still being made for this service, and a volunteer to lead is still needed.

Meditation Group, New Event!

Do you have a desire to learn, experience & practice different methods of meditation or visualization? Discover the benefits of meditation by participating in this new group, led by Nina Peacock. Nina has led many guided meditations during our church services in the past, and has offered to lead this group at our fellowship.

The meditation group will meet for the first time on November 9 at 6:30 PM. It will meet twice monthly on Thursday evenings. Future dates will be published in the newsletter and in Sunday Service bulletins. See Nina for more details!



If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would change. ~ The Buddha

Chalice Group

Our Chalice Group, also known as Small Group Ministry, meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us; we always have an open seat!

On November 8, the Chalice Group will discuss "Mentors," the people who have impacted our lives in meaningful ways.

*Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after.
~Anne Morrow Lindbergh*

Open Minds

The Open Minds Discussion Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This is a lively discussion group; everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

On November 15, The Open Minds discussion topic will be "The Politics of Food." Desserts will be provided at this event!

Religious Education

Thanks to all who planned and led children's programs in October. The Children of our congregation appreciate having a weekly program of their own very much.

Please see Shannon, Vicki, or Glenda if you are willing to help the RE committee; your input will be much appreciated!

Dennis Arnold Joins Board of Trustees

Dennis Arnold has joined the MVUUF Board of Trustees as Secretary of the Board.

Dennis has been an active and vital part of congregation since coming to his first Sunday service at our fellowship. MVUUF is fortunate to have Dennis serving on its board, as he brings many valuable experiences and interests to share with our fellowship. Thank you Dennis for your willingness to serve MVUUF!

Board of Trustees Meetings

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

The board discusses many ongoing issues at each meeting. In November the board intends to discuss the following issues: financial planning, future building acquisition, grant related planning and purchases, advertising campaigns, holiday scheduling, and service planning. If you would like to contribute input into these or other topics, please attend a meeting or speak to a board member.

Committee Matters

Several committees have been created to help our fellowship remain a viable and meaningful community for its

members and guests. In a small congregation such as ours, even the smallest efforts are invaluable.

Please consider joining one of the following committees by contacting one of the members who are named in italics.

- ☞ **Nominating Committee**
(Beth Brennan, Adam Stone)
- ☞ **Religious Education (RE) Committee**
(Shannon Green, Glenda Eubanks, Vicki Doetsch)
- ☞ **Memorial Committee**
(Adam Stone, Linda Rowe)
- ☞ **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

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:

- ☺ Bill Sasso for coming up from Carbondale to lead the Roots program.
- ☺ Tom Robinson & Terri Schwitz for looking over the building for us in preparation of a possible acquisition of the building.

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!

- ☐ Bookshelves for the library and Children's area.
- ☐ Volunteers to lead services or present sermons.

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
 - Vito Mastrangelo, Cochair
bethnvito@mvn.net
 - Paul Oakley, Treasurer
poakley0615@charter.net
 - Dennis Arnold
dennisarnold2@gmail.com

We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been — a place half-remembered and half-envisioned, we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community. Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.

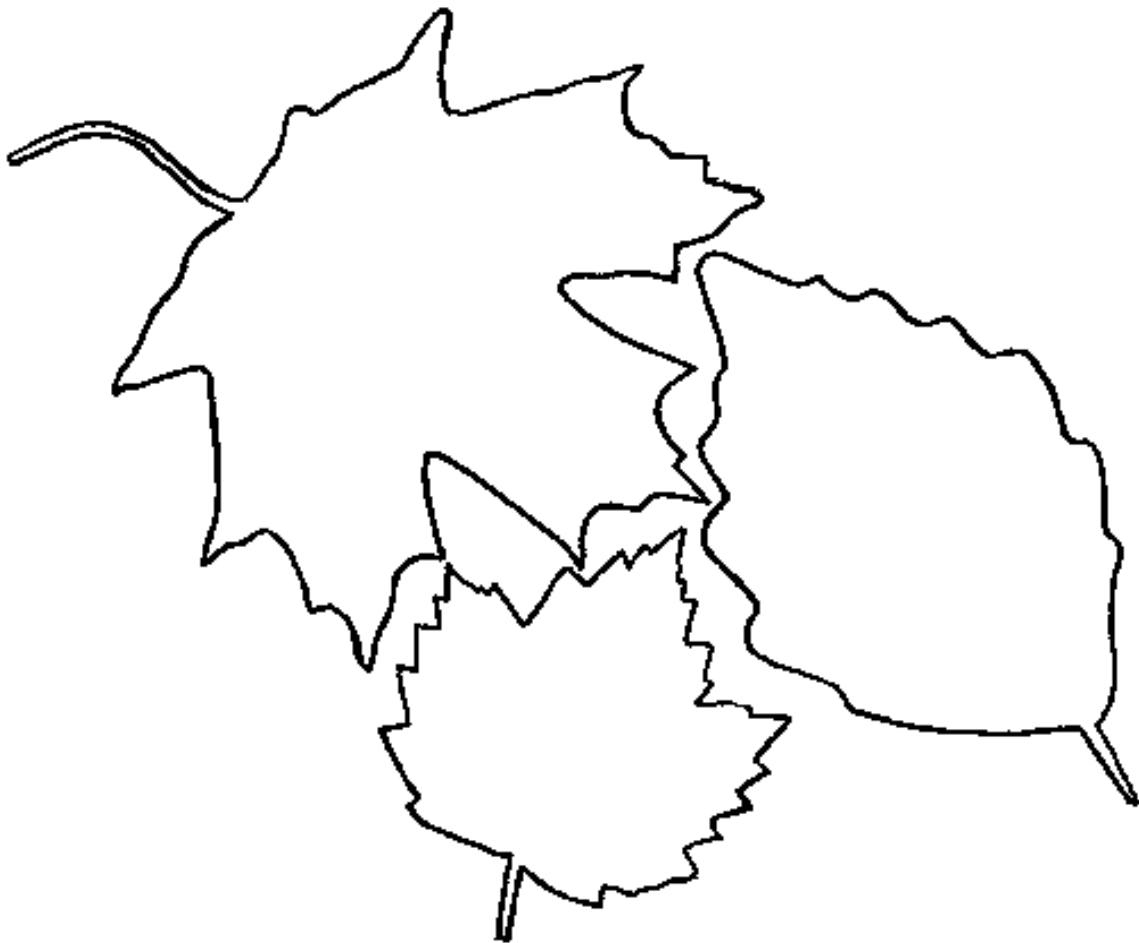
Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Somewhere where we can be free.

~StarHawk

UU KIDS MATTER

The United States celebrates Thanksgiving in November. Did you know countries and cultures all over the world have celebrated times of thanksgiving for as long back in history as we know of?

Do you know what it means to be thankful? What are you thankful for?



You can make a Thanksgiving decoration by cutting out these leaves and writing what you are thankful for on them.