

UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 (618) 241-9644
An Emerging UUA Congregation

April & May 2008
Vol. 3 No. 3

**Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship services begin at 10:00 a.m.
on Sunday mornings. Please join us!**

Upcoming Services:

April 6th: Nina Peacock will lead this service.

April 13th: *A Rage of Angels*. Paul Oakley will lead this service.

April 20th: *A Theology of Abundance*. Bill Sasso, Minister at Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship will speak at this service. While we typically hold our Open Readings Services on the 3rd Sunday of the month, Open Readings will be pushed back in April to April 27th.

April 27th: *Open Reading Service; Theme: Friendship*. Glenda Eubanks will lead this Open Reading Service. She has asked for those in attendance to bring readings, music, artwork, or thoughts on the subject of friendship to this month's service.

May 4th: Luke Crawford will lead this service.

May 11th: *Mother Earth Blessings*. Members of the fellowship will lead this Intergenerational service in honor of and reverence for our earth. We will celebrate the 1st and 7th principles, "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," and "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." MVUUF will also use this service to bring back our fellowship nature table. Please bring an offering from Spring to share at our table on this Sunday.

May 18th: *Open Reading Service*. Adam Stone will lead this month's open reading service. Please bring short readings, music, artwork or thoughts to share on this day.

May 25th: Glenda Eubanks and Angela Czapiewski will lead this service.

MVUUF is a lay-led congregation. Fellowship services are planned and/or led by fellowship members. If you are interested in planning or leading any future service please contact a member of the programming committee (Glenda Eubanks, Shannon Green, or Paul Oakley). Thank you!

Upcoming Events:

All listed events are held at the fellowship building and are open to the public unless otherwise stated. Please email information@mtvernonuuf.org for information about any service or event.

April 2nd & May 7th @ 6:30 p.m.: *Board of Trustees Meeting.* Board of Trustees members: Nina Peacock: Cochair; Luke Crawford: Cochair; Glenda Eubanks: Cochair; Paul Oakley: Treasurer; Adam Stone: Secretary. The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30. Open to anyone interested in fellowship business.

April 4th & May 2nd @ 7:00 p.m.: *Drum Circle.* Bring your drum or other percussion instrument to the fellowship for a drum circle and friendly gathering. Drummers of all experience (or no experience) are invited to attend. If you don't have an instrument, you can use one of ours! Future drum circle gatherings will be held on the first Friday of each month.

April 6th: *Laughter Yoga.* Glenda Eubanks and Angela Czapiewski will be going to Elliot Chapel in St. Louis to attend a Laughter Yoga class taught by Marlene Chertok a registered nurse that Glenda met at her work at the Artisan Shop. It is at 4:00 and is held at Elliot Chapel because two of the class members are UU's and attend there. There is a \$2.00 donation to the Chapel and whatever donation you would care to make to the instructor. We thought to leave our church after the social time downstairs and perhaps go to the Butterfly House before the class. We have 3 extra seats in the van if anyone else would care to go. Give Angela or Glenda a call 244-6451 if you have questions.

April 9th & May 14th @ 6:30 p.m.: *Welcoming Congregation Workshop;* The Taskforce for LGBT Concerns will host Welcoming Congregation Workshops on the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month. This is cooperative effort by the members of the congregation to make our fellowship an official Welcoming Congregation, and to be better at welcoming all members of the community to our fellowship, specifically those people who are also sexual minorities. Even if you haven't been to a workshop before, or don't plan on attending every month, please make an effort to attend at least one or

two of the upcoming workshops. April's workshop topic will be, "What we know and how we learned it." May's workshop will either be a continuation of the April topic, or we will move on to workshop three, which is entitled, "The common elements of oppressions."

April 12th @ 6:00 p.m.: *Interfaith Week Banquet* in Carbondale on Saturday evening, from 6 to 9 pm, at the Carbondale Civic Center. Former Executive Director of Amnesty International USA and former UUA President Rev. William Schultz will be the keynote speaker, and will address the topic "Restoring America's Credibility: Human Rights and Interfaith Relations in a Post-9/11 World." To reserve tickets, contact Ken Starbuck at 942-3986 or starbuck@midamer.net. A more complete description of the event and speaker will be available shortly at www.cdaleinterfaith.org.

April 20th & May 18th @ 11:45 a.m.: *The Religious Education Committee Meeting*. The committee will meet to discuss plans and goals for children's programming in 2008. The RE committee plans to meet in the RE classroom on the 3rd Sunday of each month following social hour. After the May 11th service, the RE committee will begin focusing on the arrival of Spring using a nature table in the upstairs sanctuary. As a reminder to families with children attending fellowship service, the Religious Education Classroom is available during Sunday morning services for parent led classes or parent provided child care.

April 16th & May 21st @ 6:30 p.m.: *April Open Minds Discussion: "Orwell Rolls In His Grave"* The open minds discussion group will screen the documentary, "Orwell Rolls in His Grave," which moves through a troubling list of questions and news stories that go unanswered and unreported in the mainstream media. Are Americans being given the information a democracy needs to survive? A discussion of these questions will follow the screening. ***May Open Minds Discussion: Traveling to Antarctica.*** Vennie Anderson of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship recently traveled to Antarctica. She will attend open minds and give a presentation on her trip with pictures, video, maps and daily diary comments. Open Minds meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

April 19th @7:00 p.m.: *Bowl for Kids' Sake Big Brother Big Sister Twin Bowl Event* Would you like to join the MVUUF bowling team and help raise money for Big Brother Big Sister? Shannon Green has agreed to be team captain and organize the team, but we still need 4 more bowlers for the night. Each bowler should raise \$60 to participate in the event; the money will be turned in at Nu Bowl Lanes in Mt. Vernon the night of the event. You do not need to be able to bowl well, but having fun is required! Please give Shannon official confirmation that you will bowl on the team no later than Sunday April 6th.

April 21st through the 27th: TURN OFF YOUR TELEVISION WEEK. Join members of the religious education committee for National Turn Off Your TV week. Just unplug the television, save some electricity and see what happens! We'll chat about how our week went during the social hour after the April 27th service.

April 24th & May 29th @ 6:30 p.m.: Meditation Group. Emphasizes the use of guided meditation and visualization with time for reflection and discussion following the meditation. Meditation Group meets the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. See Nina Peacock for more details.

April 25th - 27th: Central Midwest District Assembly; Church for the 21st Century: Shaping Our Religious Future. The CMWD Annual Gathering & Assembly is being held in St. Louis this year! The Keynote speech is entitled, "*The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church*" by Diana Butler Bass followed by "*When the Spirit Says Do: Make Your Worship Come to Life*" by the Rev. Dr. Michael Tino. Workshop topics include topics on breakthrough congregations, best practices, the spiritual roots of stewardship, worshipping with children, Earth: A Religious Response, Ministers and Youth, Website Management, Balancing our lives through Rhythm, Theological diversity in congregations, and MANY more. Information about this important and fun event can be found online at www.regonline.com/131778 or at the CMWD Website. You can register for the entire event, or just for the Keynote Speeches on Saturday.

May 3rd @ : City Wide Clean Up: The MVUUF will be sponsoring a team to participate in the City Wide Clean Up - so far 5 fellowship members have confirmed their participation, but we could certainly use more bodies to help with this important community-improvement effort! If you are interested, please contact Adam Stone (242-3557) for details.

May 4th @ 11:00 a.m.: Annual Membership Meeting. If you are a member of the Fellowship, please save this important date on your calendar! At our annual membership meeting, which will follow immediately after the regular Sunday service, we will be giving away two \$5 gift certificates to Ryan's, but to win, you must be present! We will conduct important business at the meeting, including voting on proposed changes to our bylaws, the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and electing a new Board of Trustees. All Board of Trustees terms are for one year, so if you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (Adam Stone or Beth Brennan) as soon as possible to find out more. Our current Treasurer, Paul Oakley, has indicated that he will not seek another

term on the Board. Board service is a great way to actively participate in the governance of our Fellowship!

Other MVUUF Matters:

Are you considering MVUUF membership? Please ask a Board of Trustees member for a prospective member folder.

Treasury Matters: Financial contributions may be made in the offering basket located on the round table at the back of our sanctuary. If you would like to mail contributions instead of putting them in the offering basket, you may mail them to: MVUUF, 1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL, 62864. Please make checks payable to MVUUF. If you would like your offering to be used for a specific purpose, please clearly mark that purpose on the memo line on your check or on the envelope in which you place your offering.

UU Matters Newsletter Submissions: *If you have news or notices that you would like placed in upcoming editions of UU Matters, please send them to information@mtvernonuuf.org by the 15th of each month, for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.*

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:

1. By Mail: The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 1600 Isabella Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
2. By Phone: (618) 241-9644. Please leave a voice mail message.
3. By visiting our website:
www.mtvernonuuf.org
4. by emailing our fellowship:
information@mtvernonuuf.org
5. (MVUUF Board of Trustees members can be reached using the fellowship voice mail or email)

We want to offer a special welcome to the many new visitors we have greeted lately, and to all of those who have recently become members of our fellowship! Your participation in fellowship activities is essential!

Thank you!