



UU Matters

(September 2011: Vol. 6 No. 9)

The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

~A Welcoming Congregation~

1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864; (618) 241-9644

Sunday Morning Service Schedule

(All Sunday morning services are held at 10:00 a.m. at the fellowship building and are open to the public. If you are interested in leading a service or delivering a sermon, please use the Service Sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.)

4 September: Gail DeVilbiss will present 'Labor Day: Time for Fair-trade.' DeVilbiss will define fair-trade or ethical trade and examine how it benefits the communities where products are grown or produced. Many of us are familiar with Fair Trade coffee, but we will examine other fair-trade commodities as well.

DeVilbiss will also present a UUSC program 'Reverse Trick or Treat,' and attendees will have the opportunity to advance-order fair-trade chocolate for the upcoming Halloween.

11 September: Donna Beaumont, *Gathering of the Waters Ceremony*.

18 September: Gail DeVilbiss will coordinate a *Community Open Service*. To learn more, please see details on page 3 .

25 September: A volunteer is requested to lead this service.

~Services with no designated leader will be Open Readings services.

Other Upcoming Events

(All Upcoming Events, held at the Fellowship Building, are open to the public.)

2 September: Drum Circle
-First Friday of Each Month-
-7:00 p.m.-

Bring a drum or other percussion instrument to play at this relaxed and informal drum circle, or simply come to listen and enjoy the good vibrations.

7 September: Board of Trustees Meeting
-First Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Meeting is open to anyone interested in MVUUF business.

Board of Trustees: Donna Beaumont, co-chair; Debbie Czarnopys-White, co-chair; Sam Smith, co-chair; Gail DeVilbiss, secretary; and Angela Czapiewski, treasurer.

11 September: Buddhist Meditation
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-9:00 a.m.-

Buddhist meditation group meets downstairs. One need not be Buddhist to attend.

11 September: Social Justice Interest Group
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-11:30 a.m. following Social Hour-

Learn about, discuss, and take action on social justice concerns-- issues that affect local, national, and global communities. Our group seeks projects and issues to take action on as individuals, as a group, and/or as a congregation.

17 September: Fellowship Cleaning Day and Potluck
-9 a.m.– 3 p.m., Potluck at noon

28 September: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Committees September Sign-up Campaign

The Board of Trustees has reviewed all the committee descriptions and is ready for the members to review. September will be our Fall recruitment. If you have an interest in becoming more involved with your Fellowship community, this is the time to sign up.

Committees help build our community. Committees help the Fellowship accomplish our mission and channel the individual talents and qualities of members into their common work. Being active on one or more committees is a great way to share your time and talent and give back to the Fellowship.

The Board is committed to having established working committees. We will be available to answer any questions and concerns you may have about the committees. The board will also help to organize committee members into a working group, if requested.



Attend the committee information session on September 4th at 11:00 a.m. Our session will include a short review of the committees and a few personal stories. Everyone is welcome - you do not need to be a member to sit on a committee. Sign up sheets along with committee descriptions will be in the back of the sanctuary beginning **August 28th through September 18th.**

Current committees are: Building and Grounds, Music, Welcoming and Hospitality, Publications and Library, Programming, & Religious Education.



Gathering of the Waters

Please collect samples of water from your travels and meaningful experiences this summer, to be used in the Fellowship's Gathering of the Waters Ceremony on Sunday, **September 11.**

September 18: Community Open Service

Here is how it works: Service coordinator Gail DeVilbiss will ask for participation on both **September 4th** and **September 11th**. Each participant will draw a card from 1-13. Each card will represent a part of the service on September 18th.

The parts of the service will include opening music, read welcoming statement, chalice lighting, open poem or short reading, facilitate joys and concerns, music for meditation and reflection, responsive reading, (3) cards for short 7-10 minute readings, Benediction or reflective reading (short), extinguish the chalice and closing music.

There will no theme; whatever mood or thought you are in. It will pull together much like an open reading Sunday but with more structure. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Yes, it is OK to trade cards with other participants, once you have drawn your card.

Reverse Trick or Treat Candy Available

Fair Trade Chocolates will be available to order at the September 4th, Labor day service. Gail DeVilbiss will discuss fair trade as part of her service. Chocolates can be savored by you and your family or passed out to friends and colleagues. Chocolates can be attached to an informational card explaining the importance of purchasing Fair Trade items. Help support the Fair Trade Movement with the purchase of Fair Trade Chocolates. (Chocolate is being purchased through Equal Exchange Coop and being sold to members at cost) Gail will need to secure 15 orders to proceed. \$11.00 per bag. Orders will be ready early October. Mini Chocolates bars are 55% Dark-each bag will contain between 55-60 mini bars) Cards sold separately.

Saturday, September 17, Fellowship Work Day and Potluck

Fellowship Cleaning Day is **rescheduled** for Saturday, September 17th. The weather will be cooler and more enjoyable. Cleaning will begin at 9 am, and we will break at noon for a picnic style potluck. We will resume cleaning, wrapping up by 3 p.m. If you can't make it all day feel free to join us for part of the day. We will be doing general 'spring' cleaning so bring any supplies you may have that will make the chores easier. E-mail Gail (vegaddict1@aol.com) with any songs you think are good get moving songs and we will burn a fun cleaning CD, or bring your CD's to fellowship and Gail will burn your songs during coffee after service on 9/2 or 9/10.



Attention Program Planners/Leaders : Risk Alert (Sept 2011)

Our insurance carrier, Church Mutual Insurance Company, sent a *Risk Alert* regarding concerns about copyright infringement. Specifically, “over the last few years, nine Church Mutual customers have been threatened with copyright infringement litigation regarding unauthorized use of a poem entitled ‘The Dash.’ Those claims have resulted in demands for financial compensation.”

The Risk Alert notes that “copyright is a form of protection ...granted by law for original literary, musical, dramatic and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer software and architecture. Infringement occurs when a copyrighted work is reproduced, distributed, performed, publicly displayed or made into a derivative work without the permission of the copyright owner.”

Program planners and leaders need to be attentive to copyright status of materials used in our services. For more information, go to www.churchmutual.com, click on Safety Resources, Risk Reporters for Churches, and consult the Fall 2010 edition.



Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

The UUSC Link

The UUSC is an independent human rights organization, supported through the volunteer efforts and financial gifts of its members and supporters, and linked to UU congregations through local representatives. The four focus areas of its work include: *Rights in Humanitarian Crises; Civil Liberties; Economic Justice; and Environmental Justice.*

In light of the dire humanitarian crisis — severe drought leading to devastating famine — in East Africa, UUSC has opened the [Somalia and East Africa Relief Fund](#). Using a multifaceted approach, UUSC will work with partners on the ground to provide immediate relief to Somalis suffering from the famine, as well as support communities hosting Somali refugees in other countries affected by the crisis.

International aid agencies are still awaiting security assurances before they enter the southern provinces of Somalia, which have been embroiled in armed conflict. Many, however, are now working in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital. At the same time, tens of thousands of Somalis fleeing the famine are arriving on foot to refugee sites in both Kenya and Ethiopia, overwhelming the camps set up for them and waiting outside to be registered. These sites are already in severe food crisis because of the same drought, putting grave stress on both governments and the local populations already suffering from food and water shortage.

To address the crisis and support survivors, UUSC will put a three-pronged response into action. First, working with partners on the ground, UUSC will provide immediate relief for Somalis affected by the famine. UUSC will also support communities in Ethiopia and Kenya that are hosting Somali refugees, to prevent their falling into famine conditions. Finally, UUSC will assist existing grassroots partners in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda in mitigating the effects of the disastrous lack of rain and extreme strain on food sources.

Please consider making a contribution to the *UUSC Somalia and East African Relief Fund*. If you would like to donate by check, please make it payable to “UUSC Somalia and East Africa Relief Fund” and mail it to UUSC, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808; or you can donate through the UUSC website.

If you would like to learn more about UUSC, visit the website www.uusc.org, attend a meeting of the Social Justice Action Interest Group, and watch this space at UUMatters.

Donna Beaumont, UUSC Local Representative

Our Mission Statement

Embracing Diversity, Welcoming Everyone,

We, the members of this fellowship, agree to affirm and promote the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and to strive to:

- enable spiritual, intellectual, ethical, and emotional growth for all ages,
- work for compassionate justice, and
- respect the interdependence of all existence.

Considering MVUUF membership? Please ask a Board of Trustees member for a prospective member folder, or a membership form.

Treasury Matters

Financial contributions may be made in the offering basket located on the round table at the back of the 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.

Library Matters

The MVUUF Library catalogue is available online. The catalog can be accessed at www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF.



Other UU Matters

Newspaper Announcement Submission Guidelines

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are due on the Wednesday morning prior to the service or event. If you are leading a service, or planning a fellowship event, please email your information to Beth at: bethnvito@mvn.net by (at the very latest) 8 a.m., on the prior Wednesday. It need not be complicated--a few sentences would be fine. (Also, please let Beth know if you do not wish for your name to be included in the press release.) Many new attendees have told us that they found MVUUF through these articles in the newspaper, so this is an important way to let people know what is happening.

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Please email submissions for *UU Matters* to marji.gibbs@gmail.com. Submissions for the September edition are due by **Monday, September 26**.

If you are leading a service or speaking in a service, please submit the title, date, and synopsis of your service/sermon. If you are coordinating a special meeting or event that is open to the public, please submit the date and description of the event.

UU Matters is an opportunity for you to share your personal work relating to Unitarian Universalism, to the MVUUF congregation, or to liberal religious thought in general. Please consider sharing your photography, poems, short stories, "deep thoughts," favorite quotes, etc.

Contact Information

For more information about the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us in one of 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