



UU Matters

(March 2012: Vol. 7 No. 3)

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 March: Donna Beaumont will lead this service in honor of International Women's Day and Women's History Month.

11 March: Nina Peacock will lead this service, "A Philosopher's Opinion of Art and Religion."

18 March: Shared Service, third Sunday of each month.

This March we celebrate our 7th anniversary as the MVUUF. We invite all to share stories and experiences as part of the Mt Vernon family, during our shared service. We will celebrate after the service with a potluck meal.

In addition to sharing stories, in our *Shared Service* several members select parts of the service to present. Please make selections at Sunday March 4th and March 11th Services.

25 March: *Justice Sunday* is a UU Service Committee (UUSC) tradition. This year's theme is "Justice is the Human Right to Water." The Social Justice Interest Group will lead the service. Monetary offerings to support UUSC will be gratefully accepted.

1 April: Mike DeVilbiss will lead a service about Hate Week.

~ 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 March: 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 March: 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 March: Buddhist Meditation
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-9:00 a.m.-

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

11 March: 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.

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

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Celebrating 7 years

MVUUF — March 2012

This March we celebrate our 7th anniversary as the MVUUF. We invite all to share stories and experiences as part of the Mt Vernon family, during our shared service. We will celebrate after the service with a potluck meal.

Idea Starters

The Programming Committee is delighted with the response to the *Shared Service* format. We've had so many interesting and inspiring contributions; thanks to all! We plan to continue this service each third Sunday of the month.



To inspire more opportunities to participate in/lead services, the Committee has compiled a list of *Idea Starters*: religious, spiritual, and secular holidays and other observances which could be the focus of a service. The list will be posted near the sign-up clipboard. If you have thought about leading a service, but were not sure how to start, check out the *Idea Starters*. The Programming Committee is happy to help with preparations.

Plan Ahead: April has **FIVE** Sundays,—please consider leading an April service .

Member News

MVUUF member Adam E. Stone's spoken-word ballet "A Life Unhappening," which examines the impact of Alzheimer's disease on three generations of one woman's family, will be performed three times in our area.

A special preview performance will be held at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale, Illinois on Friday, May 4, 2012 at 7:30 pm, with proceeds from the performance to benefit the Greater Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The World Premiere performance will be held at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center in St. Louis, Missouri on Friday, May 11, 2012. A wine and cheese reception will begin at 6:30 pm, with the performance to follow at 7:30 pm. The performance will be broadcast live by the Higher Education Channel (HEC-TV) and streamed live on their website. A Mother's Day performance will be held at the Donald C. Bedell Performance Hall in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on Sunday, May 13, 2012 at 2:30 pm. Proceeds from the latter two shows will benefit the St. Louis Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Each performance will be followed by an intermission, then a question and answer session with representatives of the Alzheimer's Association and key players in the ballet. An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided at each performance. Additional information about the ballet, including ticketing information, is available at Adam's website: www.adamestone.com.



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.*

March 8 is *International Women's Day*. The original U.N. resolution for the day to end violence against women calls for the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). UUSC sent a team of two women-advocates and U.S.-Sudanese Imam Mohamed Hagmagid to Darfur in early January, to train local imams and leaders around prevention of violence against women (VAW). The team, together with UUSC's Darfur partners, led two innovative multi-day workshops for 80 religious and community leaders on the dynamics of VAW, its family and community impacts, theological concepts for intervention and prevention, and the role of imams as agents of change.

On March 25, the Social Justice Group will lead the *Justice Sunday* service. This year's theme is "Justice is the Human Right to Water." UUSC partners with others world wide and in the U.S. in its work for the human right to water. For example, after an official 2011 mission to the United States, Catarina deAlbuquerque, the U.N. special rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, reported great progress but raised serious concerns about discrimination and access to safe drinking water. With UUSC assistance, de Albuquerque held hearings in three states and Washington D.C.; spoke with local communities and government officials; and testified before the congressional Human Rights Commission. The U.S. administration responded to her report, in part, "We look forward to continuing to work with the special rapporteur to take concrete action to reduce the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation." (Full report is at uusc.org/water_report).

UUSC brings to our attention the book *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis* by Cynthia Barnett. Barnett describes an illusion of water abundance and proposes the most important part of the solution is also the simplest and least expensive: a shared water ethic among citizens, government and major water users.

UUSC is working with our Coffee Project partner Equal Exchange in advocating for better certification of authentic fair trade. UUSC contends that the corporate, plantation model put forth by TransFair/Fair Trade USA is not authentic Fair Trade.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the Opportunities for Service bulletin board, visit the UUSC website at www.uusc.org, attend a meeting of the Social Justice Interest Group each second Sunday after social hour, and watch this space at *UUMatters*.

Donna Beaumont, *UUSC Local Representative*



Souper Bowl of Caring Service

Thanks to all who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring activities. We are pleased and grateful to report that Mt. Vernon UUF collected 178 dry goods items and \$76.00 to contribute to Angels on Assignment. Nationwide, 8,239 groups generated \$8,323,461 in cash and food items for local charities. Way to go team!!

-Conducted by Deb, Donna, and Gail

Plant based cooking school and lunch (Tentative).

Several Fellowship members are interested in learning about plant based cooking. An idea has come up for participants to pay \$3-\$5 each, and after service we cook our meal together using grains, soy foods, plant based substitutes, and more. Anyone interested please email Gail at vegaddict1@aol.com or let her know in person. Is there something you would like to see covered? This is an open discussion to see if we have enough interest to continue.



Many thanks to each generous person who participated in the cleaning day hosted on Saturday Feb. 18th.

Shared Services

Third Sunday

Pick up selections on both March 4th and 11th for **March 18** service. If you haven't taken part in a shared service, we invite you to join in for this one. The shared services have been a great way to be part of the group fellowship. Contact Gail DeVilbiss to sign up early or to take part in this service.

Sunday May 20, 2012

MVUUF Annual Membership Meeting

The annual Membership meeting will be held following the May 20 service. Everyone is welcome, and everyone is encouraged to attend. However, you must be a member to vote. To become a voting member, complete an application by the end of **February**. Please see a Board member for an application.

Fair Trade Buyer's Club

Buying Club order in January brought profit totals to about \$30 profit, which was used to purchase toilet paper and paper towels for the building. Next order planned will be for delivery in early May, coordinated by Gail.

Zambia Outreach

Ranchod Community Outreach and Orphan Care in Zambia is restructured and ready to begin again, with help. The organization is identifying fifty of the most vulnerable orphans, in terms of health, family-support, AIDS related, for financial adoption for \$100 a year. This will provide their schooling supplies, food and teacher salaries. Contact Debbie for info.

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, for the time being, to Gail at: vegaddict1 (at) aol.com 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 Gail 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(at)gmail.com. Submissions for the March edition are due by **Monday, March 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.

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 .

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