



UU Matters

(July 2012: Vol. 7 No. 7)

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.)

1 July: Donna Beaumont will lead the service, *Independence Day: Our Faith, Our Freedoms*. Quite a number of the people who were deeply involved in the struggle for American independence belonged to or were affiliated with Unitarian or Universalist churches. Music of the period and readings will illustrate that UUs share religious or spiritual ideas that relate directly to the ideas expressed in our nation's founding documents.

8 July: Paul Oakley will lead the service with a focus on themes of justice that were explored at UUA General Assembly and meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, which he attended in Phoenix from June 18—24. He will highlight especially the Doctrine of Discovery that is the legal underlay for the US history of slavery and removing Native Americans to reservations and is still shaping law in the 21st century.

15 July: *Shared Service*. The shared service is an open reading service with a minimal structure. If you have music, art, a special reading, thought or poem to share, please do! Shared services have come to life with a diverse group participating. Selections will be available on July 1 and July 8. Please join us.

22 July: Mike DeVilbiss will lead this service entitled *E. Pluribus Unum*.

29 July: *Open Readings Service*. Please bring readings, stories, music, or artwork to share. No need to sign up in advance. The Fellowship is looking forward to what you choose to share with us.

Other Upcoming Events

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

3 July: Board of Trustees Meeting
-First Wednesday of Each Month-
(Please note: this month, rescheduled to **Tuesday**)
-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 Walter Lazenby, treasurer.

6 July: 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.

8 July: Buddhist Meditation
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-9:00 a.m.-

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

8 July: 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.

25 July: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month 6:00 p.m.-
For information, check with Nina Peacock.

A member will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Celebrating LGBT Pride Picnic June 24, 2012



Mingling of the Waters

As summer flows onward, take time to prepare for the Mingling of the Waters, which will be celebrated at the end of summer on August 26. Please gather small samples of water from your travels or special events or places to bring to our water ceremony at summer's end. Enjoy the season!

Committee Lists

July 1st begins a new fiscal year, so it is time to update our committee lists. The committee lists will be on a table in the rear of the sanctuary for the month of July. Please add your name to committees you want to serve on and cross your name off committees you no longer want to serve on. In addition, please initial your name if you choose to remain on a current committee. Serving on a committee is a fabulous way to work with your Fellowship and help continue to make it great!

Donation log book

Often members and friends donate items to the fellowship. The donations come to us in the form of time, talent or treasure. Please consider writing in your donations in the new log book located in the back of the sanctuary. Your donation can be left anonymous if you like. This book will help us get a realistic look at what it takes to operate. So if you clean, shovel snow, conduct a service, buy supplies please take time to write it in the book.

Attention program planners! Watch the copyright

When planning a program, please be attentive to **copyright status** of materials used in our services. Our insurance provider, Church Mutual, reminds us that there can be serious legal and financial consequences for copyright infringement. Also, of course, moral and ethical issues arise in using materials produced by someone else.

Copyright is a protection granted by law for original literary, musical, dramatic and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer software and architecture. If a copyrighted work is reproduced, distributed, performed, publicly displayed or made into a derivative work without the permission of the copyright owner, infringement occurs. Particularly we must be careful of material we print or show as video.

For more information, go to www.churchmutual.com, click on Safety Resources, Risk Reporters for Churches, and consult the Fall 2010 edition. Helpful information is also found on the UUA website <http://www.uua.org/worship/143066.shtml>.



Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

The UUSC Link

The UUSC is an independent human rights organization, supported by 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.*

This month's article highlights UUSC's work with the Hope in Crops program. Here is an excerpt from an article on the UUSC website written by Rachel Ordu Dan-Harry.

Climate change has led to unpredictable weather patterns and unreliable rainfall in Kenya, resulting in reduced yields and income for small farmers. In addition, small rivers relied upon for domestic consumption and farming are drying up. Increasing reliance on trees for firewood fodder and income also exacerbates the situation.

But in the Kakamega district of Kenya, members of the grassroots SoilFarm Multi-Culture Group (SFMG) have organized the Hope in Crops Project (HIC) to confront these challenges by providing food security and sustainable livelihoods and protect Kenya's last remaining rain forest. Having made the connection between extreme poverty and deforestation, HIC provides alternatives rooted in the principles of organic farming and indigenous tree planting. While the project is all-inclusive, it particularly emphasizes assisting children and women who walk long distances to collect firewood from the rainforest at the expense of schooling and other productive activities.

HIC participants plant over 100,000 trees each year; and over the past five years the project has benefited more than 10,000 Kenyan students in 30 schools.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the Opportunities for Service bulletin board, visit the UUSC website www.uusc.org or Facebook , 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



From the Programming Committee

: Planning ahead: August 12th service is open. The Programming committee is looking for a presenter or a group to lead this service.

October 14th will be our annual Animal Blessing. Gail DeVilbiss has lead this service in the past but is looking for anyone interested in joining her. Please contact Gail at Sunday Services or e mail- vegaddict1@aol.com.

Watering strategy: *If you can help, please let Debbie know.* Hose has been loaned to reach around the entire building using the faucet by the east side, the mailbox. The north faucet leaks, yet with some creative maneuvering of the hose, part of the west side (parking lot) past the steps can be watered .

Obrigado Dank u
 Xiexie Mange takk
 Danke schön
 Gracias Eskerrik asko
 Grazie Spasiba
 Diolch Arigato Merci
 Shukran

Thank you ~ Merci ~ Gracias ~

To Ellen, for cleaning and refreshing our sign, by the steps.
 To the Building Committee, for continuing sleuthing with air conditioning and lighting.
 To Debbie and Donna for coiling many feet of hose and irrigating .
 To Paul E and Eric G for grounds-care that makes everything look so trim and nice.

<http://teflteacher.wordpress.com/2011/12/07/thank-you/>

Library books

To see what is new in our MVUUF library, use the link in Library Matters on p.6 of this newsletter www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF ,or go to www.mtvernonuuf.org and click on the library page and then click on the catalog link. From there, view the online listing of more than 600 books in our MVUUF library. The newest additions come up first on the list.

Two books in our library mentioned by Walter Lazenby at end of LGBT Pride service on June 24 were both by John Shelby Spong, retired Episcopal bishop of Newark NJ. They are titled: *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism* (220.6 Sp0) and *Why Christianity Must Change or Die* (230 Sp0). Walter mentioned them in the context of Spong's "[A Manifesto! The Time Has Come](#)".

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. (r) Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

~Margaret Mead

Used with permission www.interculturalstudies.org/faq.html#quote_use

Sing, sing together

An old-fashioned overhead projector and transparencies have been donated to the Fellowship to use if there is a need to project words for a sing-along. The projector needs a small table or possibly a stool, 26" to 36 tall. If you could share or donate such an item, please let the music committee (Mike or Sam), or Marji know.

UUA : Illuminations App for iPhone, iPad

With more than 350 Inspirational Words for Openings, Closings, Meditations, and more; a Chalice Lighter with several chalice options, and a 7 Principles Guide in English and Spanish, along with examples of the Principles in action, this is a nifty Application from UUA. **For mobile inspiration, service planning, open readings....**

- The Inspirational Words have a daily notification function.
- The 7 Principles Guide includes succinct expressions (e.g. "Each person is important," for "The inherent worth and dignity of every person.").
- (And for fun) You can blow out the chalice. (No joke.)

Download the free app to have readings from UUA Worship Web even where there's no wireless. Coming soon for Android.



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 August edition are due by **Wednesday, July 25**.

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 round bowl on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to mail a contribution, please mail 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