



# UU Matters

(July 2013: Vol. 8 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.)

**7 July:** *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, stories, music, or artwork to share. No need to sign up in advance. The Fellowship looks forward to what you choose to share. Open readings can become very special services.

**14 July:** *Open Reading Service.* If you have a poem or reading, perhaps an excerpt from a favorite book a special selection of music, a piece of artwork or creative work you have made, please share with us.

**21 July:** Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead this service.

**28 July:** Donna Beaumont will lead the service *Care for the Caregiver*, Life is not always a series of happy endings, and many of us will find ourselves in the role of caretaker at some point in our lives. Sometimes these situations come suddenly, sometimes they creep up on us little by little. And mostly there are no easy answers. The core of this service is based on the book *God Knows Caregiving Can Pull You Apart* by Unitarian Universalist minister Gretchen Thompson.



# Other Upcoming Events

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

**17 July:** Board of Trustees Meeting  
-*Usually* First Wednesday of Each Month-  
Please note the change of date for July.  
-6:30 p.m.-

Meeting is open to anyone interested in MVUUF business. **Board of Trustees:**  
Donna Beaumont, co-chair; Nina Peacock, co-chair; Terry Schwitz, co-chair;  
Debbie Czarnopys-White, secretary; and Larry Sidwell, treasurer.

**14 July:** Buddhist Meditation  
-Second Sunday of Each Month-  
-Usually 9:00 a.m., but not this month-

Buddhist meditation group meets downstairs. One need not be Buddhist to attend.  
For more information: Debbie Czarnopys-White [bdcw@frontiernet.net](mailto:bdcw@frontiernet.net)

**14 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.

**23 July:** Meditation Group  
-Fourth Tuesday of Each Month 6:00 p.m.-  
Please note the change from Wednesday to Tuesday for the summer.  
For information, check with Nina Peacock.



*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.***

UUSC has issued a Statement on National Security Agency Surveillance. The statement focuses on concerns about civil liberties and says in part: “The leaks reveal surveillance programs with a scope that goes well beyond what had been publicly known until now.... The disclosure of these surveillance programs is the latest evidence of the ways in which the post-9/11 security state has curtailed civil liberties without adequate oversight. ... Defenders of the NSA surveillance methods currently under scrutiny cite national security as a legitimate rationale for what they see as a minimal invasion of private communications. It is possible to acknowledge a vested interest in our nation's security while also voicing concern about what appears to be an alarming lack of government oversight and a serious violation of the right to privacy....Accountability and transparency are central to ensuring a free press and a thriving democracy, and their absence in any society threatens everyone's civil liberties. As rights guaranteed to every individual, civil liberties provide protection from arbitrary intrusions and assure equal participation in government processes....UUSC has a strong commitment to ensuring that these rights are upheld as a central component of an open and democratic society. Over the coming weeks we will follow the developments regarding the NSA surveillance programs as we continue to work toward universal respect for civil liberties in the United States and abroad.”

You can find the full text of the statement on the *Into Action* bulletin board and at [http://www.uusc.org/position/2013/uusc\\_statement\\_on\\_national\\_security\\_agency\\_surveillance](http://www.uusc.org/position/2013/uusc_statement_on_national_security_agency_surveillance).

**To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the *Into Action* bulletin board, visit the UUSC website at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) or on 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*

## MVUUF Policy on POLITICAL ACTIVITY at the Fellowship

Approved by the MVUUF Board of Trustees on June 5, 2013

*In 2012, an audit team consisting of two accountants, members of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, reviewed our Fellowship's financial records and procedures, and made ten recommendations. One of the recommendations is to develop "a written policy prohibiting the Fellowship from participating or intervening, directly or indirectly, in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office." Violating this policy could result in the Fellowship losing its tax-exempt status. Therefore, the MVUUF Board of Trustees, on 6/5/13, approved the following Policy on Political Activity at the Fellowship. The policy is posted on the Fellowship News bulletin board and is available for review in the Policies and Procedures notebook. If you have questions or concerns, please contact any member of the Board of Trustees.*

The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Fellowship) both respects the separation of church and state, and affirms and promotes the right of conscience and use of the democratic process within our larger society. These two commitments can sometimes seem at odds.

The Board of Trustees of the Fellowship actively encourages nonpartisan programs and events that support informed participation in the democratic process. However, some activities are partisan and therefore not appropriate at the Fellowship. These include:

**Political Fundraising.** No fundraising for a political party or candidate will be permitted within Fellowship property.

**Political Endorsements.** Neither the Fellowship nor its lay or professional leadership speaking in the capacity of such leadership will endorse an announced or potential candidate for office, or a political party.

**Political Donations.** The Fellowship will not make donations or loans to political campaigns, parties, or candidates. The resources and facilities will not be used on behalf of a political campaign or candidate.

**Political Advertising or Signage.** Signs or other advertising for candidates or political parties will not be posted on Fellowship property. No Fellowship communication – the order of service, bulletin, UUMatters, or any other Fellowship publication – will include advertising for or endorsement of a political party or candidate for office.

**Targeted Voter Registration or Election Support Activities.** Any voter registration drive or “get out the vote” effort undertaken by the Fellowship or group(s) within the Fellowship must not be partisan.

**Political Labor.** The Fellowship will not organize groups to work for any political campaign or candidate.

**Distribution of Partisan Political Materials.** There will be no distribution of partisan political materials on the Fellowship property.

The Fellowship building shall not be used for any purpose inconsistent with the Fellowship's tax-exempt status.

## Annual Gathering of the Waters

When traveling this summer, please bring home a bit of water from your travels for the Gathering of the Waters service on August 25



## *Many Thanks*

Thanks to Paul Eatherton for lawn care,  
and Terry Schwitz for repairing the air conditioner.



## **Inkling of an Idea for a service?**

Anyone interested in participating in a group presentation at a Sunday service, please contact those with whom you might be interested in working, or contact Debbie or Donna and we'll be glad to work with you.

## **Other UU Matters**

### **Newspaper Announcement Guidelines**

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are sent on the Tuesday morning prior to the service or event. If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information to Gail at: vegaddict1 (at) aol.com by (at the very latest) 8 p.m., on the prior Monday. A few sentences is fine. 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 Guidelines**

Please email submissions for *UU Matters* to marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com by **Wednesday, July 24**, for the August issue. If you are leading a service or speaking in a service, please send title, date, and description 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](http://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](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
4. By emailing our Fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)