



UU Matters

(January 2014: Vol. 10 No. 1)
The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
~A Welcoming Congregation~
1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

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 fellowship hall.)

4 January: Gail DeVilbiss will lead the Fire Ceremony to welcome the New Year. Please return *Guest at Your Table* contributions.

11 January: David Trotter will continue his discussion of Buddhism in this service, "The Eight-Fold Path."

18 January: Donna Beaumont will lead this service, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

25 January: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.

1 February– *Souper Bowl of Caring*, led by Donna and Deb, on the topic of food insecurity. Bring canned/dry goods to be distributed locally. A soup potluck will follow the service.

Please check the MVUUF [website](#) for updates to January services.

Other Upcoming Events

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

7 January 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:** Paul Eatherton, co-chair; Glenda Eubanks, co-chair, Terry Schwitz, co-chair; Nina Peacock, secretary; and Larry Sidwell, Treasurer.

11 January: 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.

11 January: Buddhist Meditation

-Second Sunday of the month- -9:00 a.m.-

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

Open Minds Discussion Group will return in February

-usually the Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-
Discussion of current topics, led by members

22 January Drumming Circle

-Fourth Friday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-
-Upstairs in the Fellowship Hall-

Join with us we gather to create to create an in-the-moment spontaneous drum circle. No previous musical experience is required. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument, or share what is available. Come and experience the ancient tradition, dynamic pulse, and healing energy of drumming with others.

27 January Meditation Group

-Fourth Tuesday of the Month 6:00 p.m.-
-Upstairs in the Fellowship Hall-

For those who want to learn and practice a variety of visualization, meditation and relaxation techniques. For information: Nina Peacock at peacock.nina@gmail.com.

New Year's Day Potluck

2015 MVUUF New Year's Day Potluck, graciously hosted by Larry Sidwell at Sidwell Friends' B & B. Gather at 12:30, meal at 1:00. Bring a dish to share.



Holiday Display

Many thanks to Paul Oakley for his generous contribution of articles for display related to various faiths. From Islamic traditions he shared: Qur'an, Islamic prayer beads, ceramic tile showing the Qaba' in Mecca, Islamic calligraphic embroidery; from Sikh: the small poster print of Sikh Guru Gobind Singh; and from Judaic traditions for Chanukah: several dreidels. These are currently on display at the back of the fellowship hall, and are a gift from him to the fellowship for display in future years.

Condolences

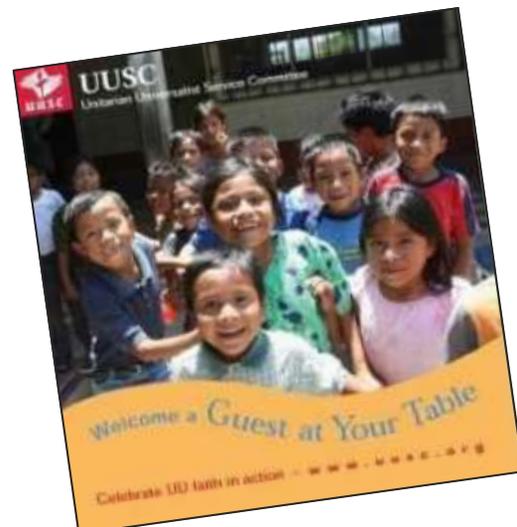
Condolences to Larry Sidwell on the passing of his father in late December.

Building Your Own Theology

The Programing committee is checking for interest in the [Building Your Own Theology](#) program, a ten-week discovery group, possibly for this spring. Some of our Fellowship have been through the course, early in the life of our fellowship. According to the introduction, the course can be condensed or expanded as needed. If interested let Glenda, Donna, or Roberta know.

Jan 4 to return Guest at Your Table contributions

Take home a colorful box or envelope and booklet of stories, those of our 'guests' this year. Contribute at mealtime—the cost of a meal, or a cup of coffee— over four to six weeks. Return the Guest at Your Table box or envelope by the first Sunday of January.





Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

The UUSC Link

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee 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.*

As we wrap up our fundraising for UUSC through the Guest at Your Table program, here is an update on two other UUSC fundraising efforts.

UUSC is thrilled to have *exceeded* the goal for our **100 Gardens** project launched last April for Justice Sunday 2014. We needed to raise \$25,000 for that initiative, and you and our supporters raised over \$46,000 — enough to fully fund container gardens for 100 urban families in Haiti and help fund the launch of a new urban garden center in Port-au-Prince. The new center will offer training sessions, house a model garden, and provide storage for supplies.

UUSC is delighted to announce that we have met our goal for the Ebola Epidemic Relief Fund! **Over \$117,200 has been raised to date**, which exceeds our goal of \$100,000! UUSC has identified and is working with two key grassroots partner organizations in two locations:

Liberia: Last Mile Health Last Mile Health (LMH) trains health-care workers in remote Liberian villages in order to address medical concerns and illnesses in the community. They have created a network of frontline health workers who are essentially a system of trained “neighbors” whom community members know and trust. Instead of relying solely on doctors and hospitals located far away, LMH is currently training existing members in villages to advance the right to health on a daily basis.

Sierra Leone: Wellbody Alliance Wellbody Alliance implements a proactive Ebola response in the remote district they have served for the past eight years: Kono, Sierra Leone. They aim not only to halt the spread of the virus but also to strengthen Kono’s health systems to prevent such future crises altogether. The project will continue the expansion of a corps of community health workers to provide house-to-house screenings, contact tracing, and compassionate preventive education. Wellbody Alliance will also implement the first ambulance system in the district to provide safe, expedited transport of Ebola patients from even the most decentralized locations. An Ebola care unit at Wellbody’s clinical location will be opened in Kono to provide dignified, high-quality care. The final goal of the project will be to maintain and strengthen operations at Wellbody Clinic, which is now the only primary health-care facility open in the district and one of the only ones in the country that remains fully operational amidst the outbreak.

You can make a difference! Please consider making a generous gift to UUSC.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, visit the UUSC website at 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*.

Other UU Matters

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



Library Matters

The MVUUF Library catalogue is available online at www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF . Recent donations to the library have been added to the LibraryThing catalog at and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship.

Committee Matters

Nominating

Vito Mastrangelo, Chair

Religious Education

Deb Czarnopys-White, Chair

Memorial

Theresa Rowe, Chair

Welcoming & Hospitality

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair

Theresa Rowe, Co-chair

Glenda Eubanks, Co-chair

Publications & Library

Nina Peacock, Chair

Building & Grounds

Greg Gibbs, Co-chair

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair

Music *

Ellen Silverman,

Co-chair

Programming

Glenda Eubanks, Co-chair

Donna Beaumont, Co-chair

LGBT

Deb Czarnopys-White, Co-chair

Contact committee chair via information@mtvernonuuuf.org

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@aol.com by (at the very latest) 8 a.m., on the prior Monday. A few sentences is fine. Many new attendees have told us that they found MVUUF through 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](mailto:marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com) by **Monday, January 26** for the February issue. [Please email February dates for the website as soon as available.](#) 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.

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.

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 visiting our website: www.mtvernonuuf.org
 3. By emailing our Fellowship: information@mtvernonuuf.org
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