



UU Matters

(June 2015: Vol. 10 No. 6)

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.)

For relaxed summer style, June will be a month of Open Readings services. Please join us, and when the spirit moves you, bring something to share.

31 May: *Flower Communion Service*, led by Donna Beaumont. Bring a flower or select from flowers provided, to add to the communal vase representing our Fellowship. Take home a different flower, to appreciate each individual's contribution to the Fellowship.

7 June: *Open Readings Service*. Please bring readings, music, creative endeavors, anything you would like to share. Open Readings can be some of our most special services.

14 June: *Open Readings*

21 June: *Open Readings*

28 June: *Open Readings*

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



Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back. Dag Hammarskjold.

Other Upcoming Events

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

3 June

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.

14 June

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.

14 June

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

17 June

Open Minds Discussion Group

-Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-

Vito will lead a discussion on the topic of Genetically Modified Organisms.

23 June

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.

Annual Membership Meeting News

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship held the Annual Membership Meeting on May 17, 2015. The budget, prepared by Larry Sidwell, was proposed, discussed and approved .

Thank you to Paul Eatherton and to Glenda Eubanks, as they step down from their terms on the MVUUF Board, and thank you to Vito Mastrangelo for orchestrating the nomination process. The Board Members for July 2015-16 are:

Continuing Member- Larry Sidwell, Treasurer

Continuing Member- Nina Peacock, Secretary

Continuing Member- Terry Schwitz

New Member- Susan Trotter

New Member- Greg Gibbs

MVUUF currently has 28 members, including four new members this year: Roberta Price, Susan and David Trotter, and April Peyton. While discussing the tenth anniversary, it was noted that four charter members were present: Nina Peacock, Glenda Eubanks, Walter Lazenby, and Vito Mastrangelo.

Reports were made by the Programming, Welcome and Hospitality, Publications and Library, Religious Education, Nominating, LGBT Concerns, and Building Committees, and the Social Justice Interest Group. The Programming Committee has been active, and detailed their future plans including search for music on the new piano, the 10th Anniversary, and Building Your Own Theology. Activities of the Social Justice Interest Group have flowed into programming, including special services and Open Minds. The Publication Committee reports 670 books are available in the Library, maintained neatly thanks to Beth Brennan. New membership packets are underway.

Among the items noted by the Building Committee: during the past year MVUUF has purchased a mower, printer, and lock box. Plans are progressing to purchase a plaque for memorials to go next to the Randy Farrar memorial plaque. Thanks go to Paul Eatherton for mowing and grounds-care. The chandeliers, including 46 light bulbs, were cleaned and are sparkling.

Committee sign up sheets for the new fiscal year are on the table in back of Fellowship Hall. Please sign up! One need not be a member to join a committee. If you donate to the fellowship or spend time on a project, please note this in the orange folder, to let the Board know the contributions that help the Fellowship run smoothly.



A Note of Appreciation

The Fellowship is appreciative and would like to thank Glenda Eubanks and Paul Eatherton for their service on the MVUUF Board of Trustees this past year. Also thanks for the time devoted by continuing Board members Nina Peacock, Larry Sidwell, and Terry Schwitz.



Condolences

Condolences to Theresa and Steve Rowe on the passing of Steve's father at the age of 93 on May 15.

2nd Annual Celebration of Recent Retirees Now Celebrates New Members too

Recent retirees and members who joined since June, 2014 were recognized and honored Glenda Eubanks – recently retired from 10 years at the Illinois Art and Artisan Museum; Roberta Price – new member, since July 2014; David Trotter – new member, since January 2015; Susan Davis – new member, since May 2015 and April Peyton, new member joining in May 2015. Nina announced that MVUU now has 28 members. A special Nina-Made gift was presented to each of the Celebrants as they were welcomed into the fold.



Walter Lazenby toasts our recent retiree and new members:



Summer Water

Please take a moment during your summer travels to collect water to share at summer's end in the Gathering of the Waters ceremony.

Tenth Anniversary of Mt Vernon UUF, Part Five

The third and final public informational meeting was held May 25, 2005, with nearly twenty people in attendance. Dr. Angela Merkert, Congregational Services Director of the UUA's Central Midwest District, spoke, and led a conversation about forming a UU congregation. It did not take long for interested parties to get busy. Vito Mastrangelo recalls that an organizational meeting was held with Rev Bill Sasso on June 1, 2005; and a Sunday meeting was held on June 19, also with Rev. Sasso. On Sunday, June 26, Vito, Glenda Eubanks, and Randy Farrar met in the parking lot and travelled to attend the Carbondale UU Fellowship service. The presiding minister was a religious scholar from SIU, Jack Hayward, who spoke on "Concerning Death: Thoughts from My Youth and My Old Age." Vito recalls that he was favorably impressed with the service, and with the new building that housed the Carbondale UU Fellowship. A nucleus of leaders for the emerging UU fellowship in Mt. Vernon was beginning to form.

Congratulations, Paul Oakley

Congratulations to Paul Oakley on his ordination to the ministry on Sunday, May 31st, 2015, and on his new position as minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro VA.



Lifeboat Alliance Donations

Donations to Lifeboat Alliance may be placed in this 'boat,' at the back of the fellowship hall, handmade by Glenda Eubanks just for this purpose.

Building Your Own Theology Begins May 31

Building Your Own Theology group will hold its first of ten weekly meetings Sunday May 31, from 11:15 – 12:45. Since May 31 is also Paul Oakley's ordination in St Louis, that week will end by 12:30, for people traveling to St. Louis.

Participants need to have a *Building Your Own Theology* [book](#) (Donna has several to lend) to read a chapter for each meeting. Diane Schwitz has kindly offered to facilitate on weeks that she does not have to work.

Open Minds

June Discussion on GMOs

The June 17 Open Minds topic is Genetically Modified Organisms. The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series on the third Wednesday of each month **at 7 p.m.** at the fellowship building, to encourage exploration and discussion of social justice and related issues. The series is open to the public.



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.*

On April 25, communities in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh suffered a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake. So far, reports reveal that more than 4,000 people have died and thousands more are injured or missing. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) President Bill Schulz and Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President Rev. Peter Morales have issued this joint statement in response to this tragedy:

“The devastating earthquake in Nepal has resulted in a growing number of victims and widespread destruction of property, including some of the world's greatest heritage sites. This tragic disaster, in a country where 25% of the population already lives at or below the national poverty line, reminds us of life's fragility and our human obligation to respond with generosity and compassion to those who suffer.

With Nepal's record of poor infrastructure, relief and recovery efforts are certain to face significant challenges. That is one reason that **UUSC and the UUA are launching a special joint appeal** for Nepal relief work. As is our practice with international disaster relief, UUSC will take the lead in distributing funds where they can do the most good, directing support toward people who are left out of mainstream relief efforts.

People and communities whose rights will be most at risk in the wake of the disaster will include people living in remote areas; women and children; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; people who do not have recognized citizenship; indigenous people; Dalits; elderly people; and people living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS. UUSC and the UUA are already establishing on-the-ground partnerships and projects to support these communities.

We are keeping the people of Nepal and the affected region in our hearts and prayers. Please be generous with your support.”

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the Choosing to Make A Difference 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*.

Donna Beaumont, *UUSC Local Representative*



Have you seen....

UU Ministry for the Earth

Spring 2015 Newsletter follow-up on Climate Justice

uuministryforearth.org/files/UUMFE_Newsletter_v14n3.pdf

Potluck and Labyrinth Walk

A Potluck meal and Labyrinth Walk at Nina's lovely home, which followed the May 17 membership meeting.



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/

Committee Matters: *Time to sign up for new fiscal year that begins July 1. Go ahead, try something new! Committee chairpersons through June 30 are:*

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**

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair
Greg Gibbs, 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@mtvernonuuf.org



Newspaper Announcement Guidelines

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are sent on the Monday morning prior to the service or event. **If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information to Debbie at: bdcw@frontiernet.net by 8 p.m., on the prior Sunday.** 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 **Thursday, June 25** for the July issue. **Please email June 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

