



# UU Matters

(May 2016: Vol. 11 No. 5)

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.)

**1 May:** Theresa Rowe will lead this service, "The Merry Month of May."

**8 May:** Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead this service, "The Native Way."

**15 May:** In celebration of Ten Years of MVUU Fellowship, this "Homecoming" service will be led by Mike DeVilbiss, with music by guest singer Juanita Whitelaw and piano accompaniment by Brett Gibbs. Members, attendees and friends who are unable to attend are invited to send a message to share.

**22 May:** Open Reading service, followed by our Annual Membership Meeting.

**29 May:** Open Readings service. Please bring readings, or bring music, to share.

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



**Ten Years of Fellowship**

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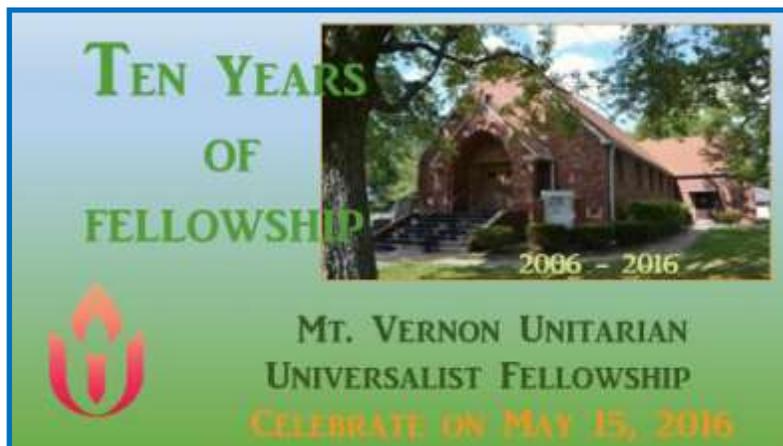
## Ten Years Ago—May 2006

The headline on the May 2006 issue of UU Matters (Yes! We had a newsletter way back then!) reads *May is Bursting with UU Activity*, and the writer was not kidding. Here is the lead story:

### ***Mt Vernon UU Fellowship Will Elect Its First Board of Trustees May 21***

After a wonderful first year of growth, the Mt. Vernon Fellowship is taking an important step toward becoming an official UU organization and a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Since officially adopting the bylaws of our fellowship at our April 23 service, we are set to elect our first sitting Board of Trustees. Nominations for the five board positions may be made up until the time of the election on May 21; however, to be included on the preprinted ballot, nominations must be received by 12 noon on Sunday, May 14. The five positions on the board are: Cochairs (3), Secretary (1), and Treasurer (1). You may either nominate yourself or another person for the board in any position. If you wish to nominate someone else, please speak with them ahead of time to ensure their interest and cooperation. Nominations may be given to any member of the bylaws committee (Adam, Beth, Vito, or Glenda) or sent directly to Shannon.

Other articles report a full schedule of Sunday services, including two with guest speakers; Chalice group meeting on the topic Living Simply; Open Minds meeting on the topic our health care system and alternative health care. The newsletter includes an invitation to begin work on religious education programming for children, and an invitation to participate in a workshop at Elliot Chapel on Starting a New UU Congregation. All of that before we were “official”!



This is the last of the “Tenth Anniversary” articles. I hope you have enjoyed reading about our early days, and getting to know our founding members. Many thanks to those energetic pioneers! You can follow our fellowship’s adventures by reading

UUMatters, archived on our website at [www.mtvernonuuf.org](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org). What will the next ten years hold?

By Donna Beaumont

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## *Celebrating Ten Years of Fellowship*

Over the past year, the activities of the founders of our Fellowship have been chronicled in the pages of UU Matters, from its gestation as the kernel of an idea in the mind of Randy Farrar, continuing through early services by the first attendees, including organizing activities and holiday festivities, to the formal adoption of bylaws of the fellowship in April 2006 and election of the first Board of Trustees. Thank you to Donna Beaumont for researching and recording these details, and thanks to all early members who shared their memories of that time.

To return to our 'roots' and to one of the early MVUUF activities, over the past summer our Building Your Own Theology group met weekly, lead by Diane Schwitz, as did a Building Your Own Theology group in the early days of MVUUF, in which Diane had also participated.

Take a look at the photos and mementos on the Ten Years of Fellowship Bulletin Board for a walk down Memory Lane through some of the Services, Holiday Celebrations, Potluck meals, Special activities and Social Action of the past ten years. Our Fellowship has established traditions, some from the larger UU and UUSC communities, such as our summer services for the Flower Communion, the Gathering of the Waters, at New Year's we enjoy our Potluck and Gail has brought us the New Year's Fire Ceremony, and Souper Bowl of Caring, Earth Day and Guest at Your Table have become MVUUF events.

The Sunday May 15, 2016 service marking our ten years of Fellowship, "Homecoming," will be led by Mike DeVilbiss. Members, attendees and friends who are unable to attend are invited to send a message to share.

For this service we are happy to welcome Juanita Whitelow, a young talented Mt. Vernon native, now from the Edwardsville area, to sing a selection of gospel, jazz, and other sacred music to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship. Juanita is a musician known for her interpretations of favorite jazz, blues, gospel, and classical music. She was the featured artist during the Black American history month in Mt. Vernon two years ago and performed at schools and other venues throughout the city. Accompanying Juanita on piano will be Brett Gibbs.

Following the service, coffee will be served, while preparations are set up for the celebratory meal. The menu and decorations are coordinated by Gail DeVilbiss. Fellowship participants will bring desserts. RSVP to [homecoming516@gmail.com](mailto:homecoming516@gmail.com) by April 29, 2016. We look forward to celebrating together as our Fellowship marks this milestone of our journey together.

Unitarian Universalists claim no statement of doctrine. We believe there is no one right way to lead a religious or spiritual life. We value each individual's spiritual journey, and believe in reason, freedom, equality, and love. Join us as we gather in community, seeking peace and justice for all persons.



[Seven Principles of UU](#)

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## ***Annual Membership Meeting***

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Annual Membership Meeting will be held following the May 22 service. Everyone is welcome, and everyone is encouraged to attend. To view the Agenda, Minutes from last year, and Budget, pick up a copy from the table in back of Fellowship Hall.

You must be a member to vote. To be a voting member, you must have completed a membership application by the end of February.

The 2016-17 Slate of Board Members to be presented for election are:

Continuing Member- Larry Sidwell, Treasurer

Continuing Member- Susan Trotter, Secretary

Continuing Member- Greg Gibbs

Continuing Member- Roberta Price

To Fill Vacant Seat- Nominee to be announced

### ***BEING ENVIRONMENTAL*** by Debbie Czarnopys-White

Many of us may not think to remove unnecessary items from our vehicles but it helps reduce gas usage. While we reduce these things, we can perhaps find a place for a light-weight box or container that we can keep for shopping or other handy uses. Remember to keep tire pressure at the recommended level to also conserve gas and drive within the speed limit (or less) to also conserve fuel. This is a little tough when the rest of the traffic may be threatening to drive over you but there may be those instances when we can ease up on the pedal a bit, save gas, lower blood pressure, and enjoy the scenery. Though it may be nice to keep a vehicle always clean, it may not be as necessary as keeping the windows and head and taillights clean and safe. Also remember that we no longer get reminders to renew our license plate stickers, so keep an eye on the expiration date.

## **Open Minds**

### ***May 18, 6:30 p.m. Discussion on LGBTQ Legal Issues***

Open Minds discussion on Wednesday, May 20 will center on LGBTQ legal issues, in particular current transgender legal issues in the news concerning restrooms. Leadership is Roberta Price.

The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series on the third Wednesday of each month **at 6:30 p.m.** at the fellowship building, to encourage exploration and discussion of social justice and related issues. The series is open to the public.

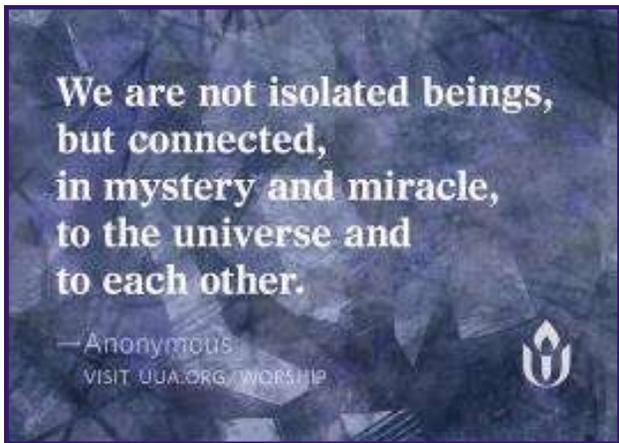
If you have a topic to discuss, concerning social justice, economic justice, environmental justice – or just being an informed citizen – please contact Donna or Vito.

## ***Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Mission Statement***

Embracing Diversity, Welcoming Everyone

We, the members of this fellowship, agree to affirm and promote the [seven principles](#) of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and to strive to:

- enable spiritual, intellectual, ethical, and emotional growth for all ages,
- work for compassionate justice, and
- respect the interdependence of all existence



## ***Spring Cleaning ~ Thank You***

Our gratitude for cleaning and mowing on April 16 : Roberta Price, Susan Davis, David Bullock, Susan Trotter, David Trotter, Donna Beaumont and Greg Gibbs.



## **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](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF). Recent donations to the library on a variety of subjects have been added to the LibraryThing catalog and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship. New donations bring our total number of books to just over 700.

### **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.

## Committee Matters:

### Nominating

Vito Mastrangelo

### Welcoming& Hospitality

Theresa Rowe  
Glenda Eubanks  
April Peyton

### Building& Grounds

Terry Schwitz  
Deb Czarnopys-White  
Vito Mastrangelo  
Susan Davis

### Religious Education

Deb Czarnopys-White

### Music

Angela Czapiewski  
Mike DeVilbiss

### Programming

Donna Beaumont  
Gail DeVilbiss  
Glenda Eubanks  
Roberta Price  
Theresa Rowe

### Memorial

Deb Czarnopys-White

### LGBT Concerns

Deb Czarnopys-White  
Roberta Price  
April Peyton  
Diane Schwitz

### Publications & Library

Nina Peacock  
Beth Brennan, Library  
Debbie Czarnopys-White,  
Newspaper announcements  
Marji Gibbs, Web/Newsletter

## 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: \[bdew@frontiernet.net\]\(mailto:bdew@frontiernet.net\) 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 [deadline of Monday, May 23](#) for the June issue. [Please email 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 & web links, etc.



## 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](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
3. By emailing our Fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)