

UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
An Emerging UUA Congregation

May 2007
Vol. 2 No. 5

Annual MVUUF Membership Meeting Scheduled for May 6

The Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship will hold its annual membership meeting shortly after the morning service and coffee time on May 6, 2007. At this meeting, members will be asked to elect a new Board of Trustees for the fellowship and to approve the first official budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The meeting will be facilitated by the fellowship's current Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee. A copy of the agenda was emailed to all current MVUUF Members in April. In order to vote in this election, you must have been a member of the fellowship for at least one week prior to the election.

The agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

1. Welcome and Call to Begin Meeting
2. Presentation of Meeting Agenda
3. Financial Report to Congregation
4. Presentation of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008
5. Member Questions Regarding Budget
6. Call for Nominations from floor for positions on the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.
7. Ballot Election
8. Announcement of Election Results
9. Close of Meeting

Upcoming Services

All Services begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please Join Us!

- ☼ **May 6:** Nina Peacock will lead this service, discussing and relating the set of positive statements in the "Pattern on the Trestleboard" to the ten Divine Emanations of the Qabalistic Tree of life.
- ☼ **May 13:** Luke Crawford will lead this service with a topic to be announced.
- ☼ **May 20:** Shannon Green will lead this Open Reading Service. Please bring readings or artwork to share.
- ☼ **May 27:** Angela Czapiewski will lead this service with a topic to be announced.
- ☼ **June 3:** Dennis Arnold will lead this service with a topic to be announced.

- ☼ **June 10:** Shannon Green will lead this service, which will host special guest Dori Davenport from the Central Midwest District office of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Dori will speak during the service about growth and vision for our fellowship, and will also be available during coffee hour to participate further in a discussion about this topic.

- ☼ **June 17:** Adam Stone will lead this Open Reading Service. Please bring readings or artwork to share.

- ☼ **June 24:** Paul Oakley will lead this service entitled, "God, Zen, and the Mystery of Being."

If you are interested in planning or participating in a service, please tell Shannon Green or Paul Oakley.

Other Upcoming Events...

Meditation Group

This meditation group, led by Nina Peacock, plans to meet at the fellowship every other Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and try it out! The May Meditation Group dates are May 10 and May 24.

Nina most utilizes the method of guided meditation. Other methods of meditation may be included as well, and Nina is very welcoming of new ideas and new meditation techniques for the group to try.



"Love is the Spirit of This Church"
from our hymnal,
Singing in the Living Tradition

Chalice Group

The Chalice group, a form of small group ministry, meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Chalice Group is a discussion group that deals with many aspects of personal spiritual life. It is a small group, but there is always a seat open for a new visitor! During the month of May, the Chalice Group will meet for dinner at the Silver Streak Restaurant in Mt. Vernon on May 9, instead of meeting at the fellowship.

Open Minds

The next Open Minds Discussion Group meeting will be Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. The discussion of "Media Reform" will be continued, including viewing the second half of Bill Moyers' keynote address from the recent National Conference on Media Reform, and a discussion of net neutrality.

Board of Trustees Meetings

The MVUUF Board of Trustees meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The Board will meet again on May 2, with the newly elected board meeting for the first time on June 6.

Upcoming items for discussion at these meetings includes the May 6 Membership Meeting, suggestions for advertising, committee updates, and upcoming special events.

Library Matters

The library gained several donations in April. Thanks go out to Margaret Burroughs for her visit and donations. Thanks also to Paul Oakley, Dennis Arnold, and Nadine Broyles for their recent donations. The library now has 143 books!

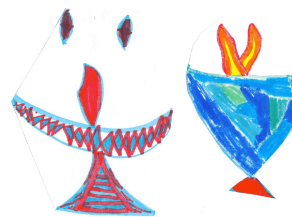
Treasury Matters

Financial contributions can be made in the offering basket located on the round table at the back of our sanctuary. If you would like to mail contributions instead of putting them in the offering basket, you may mail them to:

MVUUF
1600 Isabella Ave
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.



"Stand and silently watch the world go by—and it will." ~Anonymous

Collection for Local Animal Shelters Successful, Helpful, and Important!

Thanks to all who participated with donations for the Jefferson County Animal Shelter and/or the Lobo Animal Rescue Shelter. We gathered 29 pounds of dog food, 33 pounds and 6 cans of cat food, and \$40 in cash/checks. The Lobo Shelter prefers purchasing their own food to provide a consistent diet for the dogs, so we decided to give all the food to the JCAS and the monetary donations to Lobo.

Beth delivered the food to the JCAS and Diane delivered the cash donations to Lobo in mid April. Both organizations were very appreciative.



Welcoming The Newcomer to our Fellowship

How well are we welcoming the guests who walk through our doors on Sundays? What are we doing to make sure they know that they are welcome? What made you feel comfortable enough to come back for a second visit?

This is an important topic that we as a congregation need to continually consider and revisit. Shannon Green attended the Unitarian Universalist Central Midwest District Assembly in April and brought back many resources to help us in this topic. One of these resources is a DVD workshop called, "Welcoming the Newcomer."

Please see Shannon to give your input on the best time to schedule a viewing of this DVD and begin the discussion!

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

— Anne Frank

Fellowship Contact Information

If you are looking for more information about the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or would like to be added to our mailing list, you can do so in the following ways:

- ▶ By Mail: The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1600 Isabella
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
- ▶ By Phone: (618) 241-9644. Please leave a voice mail message.
- ▶ By emailing a member of the board:
 - Shannon Green, Cochair
moonstander@charter.net
 - Glenda Eubanks, Cochair
gatherings@mvn.net
 - Vito Mastrangelo, Cochair
bethnvito@mvn.net
 - Paul Oakley, Treasurer
poakley0615@charter.net
 - Dennis Arnold
dennisarnold2@gmail.com



A Note from the Memorial Committee

The bronze plaque memorial purchased to honor our founding member Randy Farrar has arrived. In the near future, the members of the fellowship will need to decide where the plaque will be placed. Please stop by the church office to view the plaque on the church desk, then begin to think about where you believe the plaque would look best. Please convey your thoughts to a Board member. We hope to receive input from all members before a final placement decision is made.

Our Seven Principles

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.