

December
 2008

DIRECTIONS

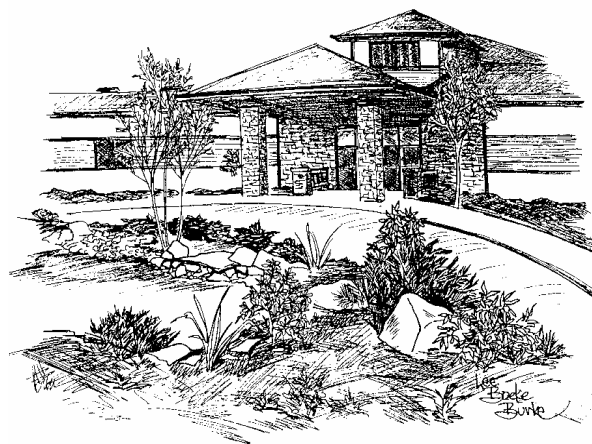
The Weathervane

by the Rev. Roger Bertschausen & Rev. Dottie Mathews

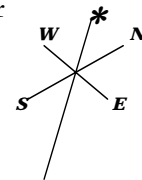
Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.

~~Anne Lamott

We have heard a lot lately about the word “hope” – it has been in headlines and book titles and speeches. It is one of those words that holds great power; we are all looking for hope in our lives and it certainly seems that’s one of the profoundly true reasons we gather here at the Fellowship as we do, week after week, year after year. We draw our hope from the sense of community we share. We cherish the knowledge that we are here for one another and know that we can rely on one another, in good times and challenging times.



Another aspect of hope is that it encompasses at least some form of a *future* vision. With these uncertain financial times, it is sometimes difficult to allow our imaginations to soar to new ideas and opportunities. Yet, as counterintuitive as it may sometimes feel, that sort of planning and dreaming may be MOST needed in such demanding times.



At the Fellowship, we’re in our next phase of future planning. We will be updating our five year Long Range Plan under the guidance of our Crystal Ball Committee. But it is very important to note that this Long Range Plan does not and cannot spring from the minds of the Board, the Executive Team, your Ministers or any other leader here --- this is YOU – your plan for how we will evolve in the years ahead. Over the next few months, you will have a variety of opportunities to share your dreams and vision for what this Fellowship is to become. We strongly encourage you to enthusiastically engage in these conversations. You will benefit from the energetic imaginings of others and you will contribute greatly to the path forward for this thriving community in the Fox Valley and beyond.

At times it takes courage to allow unfettered dreaming to flow in the face of daunting national and international realities. Yet, as Anne Lamott notes, it is out of the dark times that some of the most brilliant hopes, dreams and accomplishments emerge. We are excited to hear what you think – how you “dream us to be” five years from now. We have learned from the past several decades that this Fellowship’s outlandish dreams often do become solid plans and those solid plans more often than not do become our reality. So hold high your hope! Wait, watch, work ---- and dream on!

~Roger and Dottie

When all else fails
 ... Read the
Directions!

Mark Your Calendars

The Spring Adult Enrichment Retreat will be April 3-5, 2009, at the Norbertine Center.
 Please note: this is a change from the date listed in the AE booklet.

DIRECTIONS

Serving the Members and
Friends of the Fox Valley
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship.

Fellowship Phone:
920-731-0849
Fellowship Fax:
920-731-3737
E-Mail: fvuuf@new.rr.com
Website: www.fvuuf.org

Staff

Roger Bertschausen, Sr. Minister
Dottie Mathews, Assoc. Minister
Bridget Kramer, Director of Religious
Education
Karen Bruno, Music Director
Marie Murton, Membership
Coordinator
Siri Witt, Business Administrator
Christina Katic, Secretary
Jenna Page, Child Care Provider
Lauren Thompson, Child Care Provider

Officers

Marti Wheeler, President
Jodi Bremer, Vice-President
Todd McKenzie, Secretary
Theresa Hannah, Treasurer

Board Members-at-Large

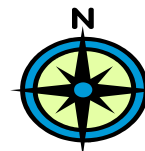
Holly Park
Perry Bush
Bob Williams

Committee Chairs

Amy Attenberger, Adult Enrichment
Gail Dolan, Art
Julie Heidemann, Audit
Dale Bowers, Bldg & Grounds
Albert Park & Terry Dawson
Building—Phase II
Debra Cronmiller, Crystal Ball
Pat McQuillan, Finance
Joe Abhold, Healthy Congregation
Kelly Witzke, Hospitality
Dave Roisum, Landscaping
Amanda Dietrich, Membership
Vickie Milde, Ministry
Diane Weyenberg, Neighbor to
Neighbor
Connie Kanitz, Nominating
Jodie Kacer, Personnel
Rosie Geiser, Planned Giving
Lisa O'Connor, Playground
Task Force
Gary Haren & Wendy Sieja, PR &
Communications
Brian Murton, Services
Jeanine Knapp, Social Action
Brad Maggard, Technology

Compass points from the Governing Board

By Jodi Bremer, Board Vice-President



Ends Statement (Approved 4-18-06; Amended 10-17-06)

A. The people of the FVUUF actively work for a thriving Fellowship community and believe that in the future the FVUUF will be:

1. A strong and vital community where we are connected with each other and are supported in our individual pursuits for truth and meaning.
2. A community, open to all those who are in sympathy with our Unitarian Universalist principles, where we value the intrinsic worth and dignity of every person.
3. A community that offers an open, friendly, welcoming atmosphere with an energy that is experienced by all those entering our doors.
4. A community that provides a nurturing environment exemplified through the collegiality and intimacy of small group activities, the stimulation of programs or educational activities, and the openness and acceptance of interactive religious services.
5. A healthy community that is grounded in direct, honest, caring communication.

The above passage is part of the Ends Statement included in our Governing Board policies. Over the next months, Board members will reflect on the different parts of our Ends Statement. As Marti Wheeler expressed in last month's column, "these End Statements reflect what the Fellowship wishes." This month I will reflect my thoughts on the first statement.

Within these walls of the FVUUF, I see a strong Executive Team who relies on each one of us to pursue the work of our Fellowship. We continue to grow in numbers and strength, resulting this year in being able to add to our professional ministry team.

Since the first time I entered this community, I have found various ways to make connections. I took Adult Education classes, became involved in a Covenant Group, mentored a youth in the Coming of Age program, taught religious education classes, and helped to develop our annual Winter Solstice service. Most recently, I serve as the Vice-President on the Board. Through all these activities, I have met new and interesting people whom I have enjoyed getting to know, some of whom I consider my very dearest of friends.

I continue to feel challenged to think about how to live my life to the fullest. Each time I make the journey to the Fellowship (our family travels from Manitowoc), I am reminded why I am still a part of this Fellowship. The diversity of thought that is housed here at the Fellowship is a constant reminder to me that many roads lead to the same path. How fortunate we are to be able to pursue the road that best suits our own journey.

As we travel through life, all of us experience bumps along the way. The lay leadership and ministerial team are there for all of us. I personally have been the recipient of that support and I am most grateful.

As we approach the winter darkness, let us look inward and reflect how we can continue to create a more joyful, purposeful existence. May we share that joy with our families, friends, colleagues beyond the walls of this most amazing community.

- Jodi

The Board would like to find out how we as a faith community are doing in meeting the vision articulated in our Ends Statement. If you would like to be a part of this dialogue, simply find a Board member after services and tell them your answer to these questions:

**How do you feel connected and supported here in this community?
Has this changed over time?**

Services

Saturdays 4:30pm, Sundays 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45am

December 6-7 "My God" by Rev. Roger Bertschausen

Last year I focused some attention on theology—and especially on liberation theology and process theology. In this sermon I will share my own understanding of God.

December 13-14 "Christmas Revels" by FVUUF Choir, RE, and Adult Revelers

These intergenerational services will celebrate the wisdom and spirit of Christmas. Join us for a series of songs, readings, and a short play that reminds us of the peace, love, and abundance in our lives every day and at Christmastime. **No Religious Education at this service.**

December 20-21 "The Winter Solstice" by the Rev. Roger Bertschausen & the Rev. Dottie Mathews

Join us for our annual Winter Solstice service as we celebrate the darkness of this time of year as well as the beginning return of the light. This service is designed for adults and children, kindergarten and up. **Childcare will be available for preschoolers and younger.**

December 24 at 4:30, 6:30, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. "A Mall and the Night Visitor" by the Rev. Roger Bertschausen

Our traditional family Christmas Eve services celebrate the story of Jesus' birth. All four services will include traditional readings, carols, candle-lighting, and a story by Roger that is, like the popular Christmas classic from the 1950s, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a modern incarnation of the Christmas story. **Nursery care will not be available at any of the services.**

December 27—No service

December 28 at 9:15 a.m. only "Celebrating Kwanzaa" by Sarah Radloff

Created by Maulana Karenga in 1966, Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrating African heritage that takes place each December 26 to January 1. Our guest speaker will share about the holiday and how it's been important to her family. This service is designed for adults and children, kindergarten and up. **Childcare will be available for preschoolers and younger.**

January 3-4 "Turning of the Year" by the Rev. Roger Bertschausen & the Rev. Dottie Mathews

We ring in the new year with our traditional service that looks back at the significant events of our lives in the year just completed, and looks forward to the new year. With this service we resume our regular four service weekend schedule, and Religious Education programming resumes.

Service Auction Thank You

Saturday Nite Fever was fun, fab, and groovy! Thank you to donated items and services and those who came to boogie down with us! The amount raised has not been finalized yet, but will be included in the January newsletter.

A very special thank you to Diana Newago Knoke, Julie Kersten, Theresa Spoehr, Jenny Straight, Julie Miller, Linda Grishaber, Gary Haren, Wendy Sieja, Stephanie Long, and the others who volunteered their time to make this a successful evening. Thanks and catch you on the flip side!

Fellowship Mail:
PO Box 1791
Appleton WI 54912-1791
Phone: 920-731-0849

Staff Office Hours during program year

Sr. Minister

Tuesday 9:00AM—4:00PM
Wednesday Noon-3:15PM
Appointment times by request
fvuufmin@new.rr.com

Assoc. Minister

Tuesday 9:00AM—4:00PM
Wednesday Noon-3:15PM
Appointment times by request
fvuuf2min@new.rr.com

Director Of Religious Education

Tuesday thru Friday
7:30AM—3:00PM
Appointment times by request
fvuufdre@new.rr.com

Music Director

Please call 731-0849
fvuufmd@new.rr.com

Membership Coordinator

7am-12pm
Appointment times by request
Please call 731-0849
fvuufmem@new.rr.com

Business Administrator

Monday thru Friday
8:00AM—2:30PM
fvuufao@new.rr.com

Secretary

Monday thru Friday
8:30 AM—3:30 PM
fvuufsec@new.rr.com

New Members

Please take a moment to
welcome our newest
Fellowship members:

Katherine Dobbs,
Mary Ann Justice,
Cat Kobylar, and
Lisa Hambly

Welcome!

Calendar December 2008

Monday Dec. 1 – Goddess Group 8:30am
Deva Partner Church 6pm
Miracles Group 6:30pm

Tuesday Dec. 2 – Parent & Child Playgroup 9am
Art Committee 6:30pm
Social Action 6:30pm
Choir 6:30pm
CCUU 5:30pm
Men's Group 7pm

Wednesday Dec. 3 - OA 6:30am
Crystal Ball
Tao 7pm
OWLS 6:30pm
Alanon 6:30pm

Thursday Dec. 4 - AE- Menu for the Future 6:30pm
1st Thursday Book 6:30pm

Friday Dec. 5 – Crafter's Corner 7pm

Saturday Dec. 6 – Zen Group 6:25am
Service 4:30pm

Sunday Dec. 7 –
Services 8am, 9:15am & 10:45am
Welcome Class 10:30am
NA 6pm

Monday Dec. 8 – Goddess Group 8:30am
Finance Committee 6:30pm
S.O.S. 6:30pm
Hearing Loss Assoc. 6:30pm
Miracles Group 6:30pm

Tuesday Dec. 9 – Parent & Child Playgroup 9am
Choir 6:30pm

Wednesday Dec. 10 – OA 6:30am
Alanon 6:30pm

Thursday Dec. 11 - Work That is Real 7pm
Charla 7pm

Saturday Dec. 13 – Zen Group 6:25am
Service 4:30pm

Sunday Dec. 14 – **Services 8am, 9:15am & 10:45am**
Free Thinkers 8:30am
NA 6pm

Monday Dec. 15 – Goddess Group 8:30am
Miracles Group 6:30pm

Tuesday Dec. 16 – Parent & Child Playgroup 9am
Choir 7pm
Board Meeting 7pm

Wednesday Dec. 17 – OA 6:30am
OWLS 6:30pm
Lay Ministers 6:30pm
Alanon 6:30pm

Thursday Dec. 18 - AE- Menu for the Future 6:30pm

Saturday Dec. 20– Zen Group 6:25am
Service 4:30pm

Sunday Dec. 21 – **Services 8am, 9:15am & 10:45am**
NA 6pm

Monday Dec. 22 – Goddess Group 8:30am
Membership 6pm
Gathering Circle 7pm
Miracles Group 6:30pm

Tuesday Dec. 23– Parent & Child Playgroup 9am
Choir 7pm

Wednesday Dec. 24– OA 6:30am
Services 4:30, 6:30, 8 & 11pm
Alanon 6:30pm

Thursday Dec. 25– Office Closed for Holiday

Friday Dec. 26 - Office Closed for Holiday

Saturday Dec. 27– Zen Group 6:25am
No Service

Sunday Dec. 28 – **Service at 9:15am only**
NA 6pm

Monday Dec. 29 – Goddess Group 8:30am
Miracles Group 6:30pm

Tuesday Dec. 30– Parent & Child Playgroup 9am
Choir 7pm

Wednesday Dec. 31– OA 6:30am
Alanon 6:30pm

Abbreviations:

AE= Adult
Enrichment
OWL= Our
Whole Lives
CCUU= New
Orleans Partner
Church
Committee
NA= Narcotics
Anonymous
OA=
Overeaters
Anonymous
Alanon=
Friends &
Family of
Alcoholics
SOS= Survivors
of Suicide

See the small group directory or Adult
Enrichment booklet for information on
attending Fellowship groups listed here.

Announcements

Tao Group

The Tao group will be meeting again on the FIRST Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. here at the Fellowship. Each month a verse in the Tao will be explored. All are welcome – from those who have been on the path for awhile to those who are interested for the first time.

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2008

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Verse: #24

He who stands on tiptoe is not steady.

He who strides cannot maintain the peace.

He who makes a show is not enlightened.

He who is self-righteous is not respected.

He who boasts achieves nothing.

He who brags will not endure.

According to followers of the Tao, “These are extra food and unnecessary luggage.”

They do not bring happiness.

Therefore followers of the Tao avoid them.

Namaste

First Thursday Book Group

At the December 4th meeting we will read Death In A Prairie House William Grennan. You do not need to be a member to attend – Just show up even if you haven’t read the book. There is always great conversation, 6:30pm on Dec. 4th at the Fellowship. For more information call CyAnn at 729-0477.

Small Group Highlight: Tuesday Morning Playgroup

The Tuesday Morning Playgroup is a wonderful chance for parents with preschool kids to have a weekly time to meet other parents as well as have a place for your kids to play! We meet in the nursery at the Fellowship and everyone is welcome to join us on Tuesdays from 9:00-10:30.

Deva Partner Church

Any questions please contact:

Tony Salsich- jtsals8@sbcglobal.net or

920-749-2914, Dean Spoehr tdspoehrs@gmail.com or

920-991-2608

The Deva Partner Church committee will meet on the **1st Monday of each month at 6pm.**

FoxPUC's Annual Winter Solstice

Celebrate the returning of the light, and call on healing and hope for the future! Sunday December 14th 3pm-9pm, at the UU 3pm – 5pm Arrivals and Workshop by Betty Pound 5pm – Solstice Ritual (daycare provided) 6:30pm – Potluck Dinner, Raffle, Dance and Merriment See www.foxpuc.org for more information or call Heather at 722-2292.

Work That Is Real

The second meeting of the Work That is Real group will be held **on December 11th at 7pm** at the Fellowship. We will be continuing our conversation on *Eat Pray Love*. ALL are welcome to join us, even if you have not attended before! Contact Marie Murton with questions, 731-0849.

First Wednesday Luncheon

The First Wednesday luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 3, at noon in the Founders Room. Take your lunch break and join us for a time of fellowship, food, and conversation! If interested, please either sign up on the Bulletin Board at the Fellowship or call the office (731-0849) by Monday, December 1st.

Practice your Spanish

The Charla Spanish speaking group meets every second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. for conversation. You are welcome to join us. For information, contact Ann Frisch 920-237-1748 afrisch@charter.net; or Yolanda Tesch 920- 731-6600.

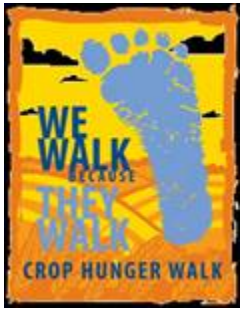
www.goodsearch.com

The Fellowship is now registered with the internet search engine “GoodSearch”. You can use the site **www.goodsearch.com** to perform your internet searches (similar to Google), then **identify the Fellowship as your recipient**, and voila!... the Fellowship receives cash! Make “GoodSearch” your preferred internet search tool.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the January newsletter are due by **December 15**. Send your articles to fvuufsec@new.rr.com, drop off a hand-written copy at the Fellowship, or mail the copy. Remember, information **MUST** be submitted in written form.

Congratulations and Thank You to All You Wonderful CROP-walkers!!



The members and friends of this Fellowship raised an amazing **\$7,464.37** for the CROPwalk on the weekend of Oct. 12th. We're not certain how many of you actually joined us in walking but it was clearly over 100! We far, FAR, exceeded the amount and participation of past years and we cannot thank you (walkers, supporters, and donors) enough!

Watch for news of what was raised by the Fox Cities CROP walk as a whole. Remember, 25% of the amount raised goes to aid five area food pantries: Hortonville Community Food Pantry, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry (Kaukauna), Neenah-Menasha Red Cross Food Pantry, Salvation Army Food Pantry (Appleton), and St. Joseph Food Program (Menasha). The remaining 75% will be distributed primarily by Church World Service to address hunger and poverty concerns in the U.S. and throughout the world.

This was a wonderfully joyful way to celebrate Dottie's installation as our Associate Minister and to live out our dedication to work together in building a better world. This is a great accomplishment and we are so very, very grateful! A very big thanks to our social action committee and Connie Kanitz who chaired this effort! We all had such a great time – we'll have to make this an annual FVUUF event!

Fox Valley Warming Shelter

The Social Action Committee has as its focus this year, homelessness. There is a new program in the area, the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, which will be helping our area homeless individuals throughout the cold and icy nights this winter. The Shelter has not yet found a "home," but will be utilizing local churches to house those in need on a rotating basis. While our Fellowship doesn't have a space large enough to accommodate the needs of the Shelter, we can provide financial assistance and volunteers! If you would like to learn more about the Shelter, please go to www.foxvalleywarmingshelter.org and find out how you can help. They are in need of funds as well as volunteers to help out with supervising the individuals during the evening and overnight hours. Please consider sharing some of your gifts of time and/or money with those who are having hard times.

Green Corner

The resource guide for the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) Ethical Eating is now available to download here:

<http://tinyurl.com/UUAethicaleating>. "Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice" is personal in nature (involving our free choices of what we put in our own bodies) and global in reach (with implications for ecosystems, human hunger, social inequity, animal welfare, and climate change).

This guide will help you raise appropriate questions and find your own good answers—which may differ from the answers of other Unitarian Universalists (UUs). Our religious tradition has no creed, so different Unitarian Universalists will define terms like "ethical eating" in different ways. Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our Association, we encourage all people, in all places, to develop their individual vision and their personal understanding. The point of this Guide is not to propose a dietary code or insist on adherence to a particular set of rituals or religious beliefs. It aims instead help you feel confident in making easy, tasty, nutritious food choices that fit with your individual ethical and spiritual values, and thus. Imagine that!



Guest at Your Table

The UUSC is our international human rights organization. The Guest at Your Table program is not only an important fundraising activity, it provides us with a simple daily exercise of remembrance for people in the US and around the world who are in need of our help and attention. The simple act of placing a gift in the box each day is an act of remembrance. It is also a wonderful opportunity for children to help others around the world. Boxes will be made available the weekend of Thanksgiving and can be returned in early January. Please contact Bridget Kramer with any questions at 731-0849 or fvuufdre@new.rr.com.



Social Action Collection

Maasai American Organization: \$832.85

Year to Date Collected: \$4373.39 as of 11/17/08

Thank you!

**FVUUF INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY REPORT
AS OF October 31, 2008**

Income	10/31/2008	Year To Date 7/1/08-10/31/08	YTD Prior Year	Year To Date Budget
Contributions:				
Pledges	40,970	150,866	126,558	139,731
New pledges	1,250	2,850	1,205	5,000
Unpledged	625	2,318	2,935	5,000
All remaining	3,831	24,309	26,404	8,417
Total income	46,676	180,343	157,102	158,148
Expense				
Personnel	33,406	123,586	125,936	131,707
Office exp.	2,475	9,545	8,867	11,171
Mortgage P & I	4,444	17,777	18,089	18,089
All remaining	12,058	21,435	(677)	18,088
Total Expense	52,383	172,341	152,215	179,055
Difference	(5,707)	8,002	4,887	(20,907)

YTD Pledges are \$11,000 ahead of YTD budget and \$24,000 ahead of prior YTD. YTD total income is also ahead of both YTD budget and YTD prior year.

YTD, personnel, office, and mortgage expenses remain under budget, resulting in total expenses being under budget for the year by \$6,000. Other expenses for the month include quarterly dues payments made to the UUA and District.

YTD as of 10/31/08, income exceeds expenses by \$8,000, which is \$4,000 over last year and \$28,000 ahead of budget.

Fundraising Corner

Two great new ways to earn money for the Fellowship by doing what you already do... shopping and surfing the net.

Scrip

How can your "normal" shopping benefit the Fellowship?? It's SCRIP and we will be starting a program very soon! Order gift cards on line and they will be delivered to your mail box for a small postage fee (\$1.00 or less). Tons of locally available merchants such as **Woodman's, Copp's, Festival Foods, Kwik Trip, JC Penney, Sears, Kohl's, PetSmart, Menard's, Lowe's, Home Depot, Best Buy** and many, many others. In return for your patronage, the Fellowship will receive a percentage of your purchase (between 1% and 15%, depending on the merchant - you can choose the merchants that give the most cash back!). You can use the gift cards for your everyday shopping or give them as gifts. Visit www.simplifiedscrip.com. Look for details in the lobby. or contact Pat McQuillan (722-3248, pmac@new.rr.com) with questions.

Internet Search for Cash

The Fellowship is now registered with the internet search engine "GoodSearch". You can use the site www.goodsearch.com to perform your internet searches (similar to Google), then identify the Fellowship as your recipient, and voila!... the Fellowship receives cash! Make "GoodSearch" your preferred internet search tool.

Watch this monthly Fundraising Corner for updates on these programs and more ways to help your Fellowship!

Help Me Build a Better World

Big Brothers Big Sister of the Fox Valley Region, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a non-profit organization that matches mentors with children who desire and could benefit from having a mentor. Our mission is to assist youth in becoming confident, competent, and caring individuals through one-to-one relationships with caring mentors. We serve Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca, and Winnebago counties. I am involved in the organization as an employee and a volunteer. I am an Enrollment & Match Specialist as a staff person, and a Big Sister as a volunteer. Not only do I get to match compassionate mentors with amazing young children at work, but I also know that I can make my own individual difference in the life of one child whom I care about and who cares about me when I volunteer.

We currently have over 250 children on our waiting list who are looking for a Big Brother or Big Sister to spend time with them...play catch, bake cookies, help with homework, and just talk about their days. They are waiting for someone to be their special friend—just for them. All it takes is an hour a week to make a difference for the child. We have professional staff to support your match and provide free activities on a monthly basis. We encourage no-cost activities.

If you are interested in football, cooking, baseball, gardening, computers, crafts, soccer, swimming, fishing, cooking, walking, biking, reading, playing games, watching movies, shopping, science, cooking, dancing, painting fingernails, photography, basketball, music, or video games, then we have an opening for you! Apply today at www.bemybig.com or contact me at jlehner@bemybig.com. If you are unable to access the Internet or want to speak with a real person, please call 739-3542 or feel free to catch me on Sundays! ALL are encouraged to apply!

Thank you for taking time to learn about Big Brothers Big Sisters—I look forward to meeting you!

-Jenn Lehner

Mitten & Stocking Wreath Project

For over fifteen years the Religious Education program has sponsored the Mitten Wreath Project providing an opportunity for families and individuals in the Fellowship to share with those who are often forgotten during the holiday season. These people, clients of Lutheran Social Services, have developmental disabilities or suffer from a debilitating mental illness. They may have no one to remember them with a gift and holiday greeting. This program is a simple way to share some of our joy with them.

Also on the wreath this year you will find stockings. These stockings will represent gifts for the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley. The youth group has decided to create shoe boxes for the individuals at the shelter for Christmas as their first project.

On November 29th a wreath will be placed at the front of the Main Hall. On the wreath are paper mittens and stockings decorated by children in the RE program. On the mitten is the name of a LSS client in need of a gift with some suggestions of items they would like. On the stockings is an age range and ideas for gifts to help fill shoe boxes.

All you need to do is take a mitten or a stocking and buy one or more of the suggested gifts. If you chose a mitten, we ask that you wrap the gift(s). If you chose a stocking, please just bring in the item(s). Attach the mitten or stocking to the item(s) for identification. Return the gift to the Fellowship by Sunday, December 14th at noon. A bin is conveniently placed under the wreath for the gifts.

Staff from LSS will pick up the presents from the mittens and the youth group will distribute the shoeboxes to those in need during the holiday season. We hope every mitten and stocking will disappear from the Wreath and a present will take its place under the wreath.

Getting to know UU: Monica Rico



Tell me about yourself.

I teach American History at Lawrence University, specializing in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. I live in Appleton with my husband, Peter, and my Shiba Inu dog, Niko. In my spare time I like to travel, read, cook, and study Mandarin Chinese. I must regretfully say that I don't seem to have much spare time, though!

How did you learn about the Fellowship?

I can't remember! I knew about it several years before I got up the courage to go to a service and see what it was like for myself. I may have seen something about the Fellowship in the Post-Crescent.

What have your experiences here been like?

The Fellowship brings together people who are committed to making the world a better place. I find that inspiring.

What is something about you that few people know about?

I'm a terrible pack rat. I save everything. It's embarrassing.

Civil Rights Tour February 2009

The Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage in the South, scheduled for February 11-18, 2009, is now open for registration. The trip will begin and end in Birmingham, Alabama, and will include bus travel with stops at sites and visits with Civil Rights veterans in Marion, Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama, as well as Meridian and Philadelphia, Mississippi.

More than a tour of past history, this Living Legacy Pilgrimage is being planned by a team of people who participated in Meadville Lombard's Southern Civil Rights Tour last March and found themselves deeply moved to the point of envisioning something more. Perhaps you could call it "the next step" or "building from the past to create the future."

Leaders in our Unitarian Universalist organization will be among the participants, but the Pilgrimage is open to anyone interested in experiencing first-hand our civil rights legacy and exploring what we are called to do now and in the future. A maximum of 40 people will be registered on a first-come basis with a \$250 deposit to hold their space. The cost per person of \$1200 includes all lodging on a shared room basis, transportation and fees, and most meals. The registration deadline is December 15, 2008.

Registration and information is available at www.uulivinglegacy.org, or Glenn Johnson, Registrar, at Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA, 800-549-0751.

What Do You  's Believe?

Coming up with a brief and accurate response to this question presents a challenge for many of us...and when you're faced with someone sincerely asking to be informed about our Unitarian Universalist beliefs, you may wish you'd given it a bit of forethought. We'd love to publish YOUR response (anonymously or otherwise) so please email Rev. Dottie Mathews at fvuuf2min@new.rr.com to make your own entry:

Most Unitarian Universalists believe that nobody has a monopoly on all truth, or ultimate proof of the truth of everything in any one belief. Therefore, one's own truth is improvable, as is that of others. Consequently, we should respect the beliefs of others, as well as their right to hold those beliefs. Conversely, we expect that others should respect our right to our own beliefs. Several UU's then, would likely hold as many different beliefs. Other beliefs they may hold in common are a respect for others, for nature, and for common decency, leading to a particular caring for the poor, the weak, and the downtrodden. As a result, issues of justice, including social justice are held in common among most. — Gene Douglas, Harrah, OK

Winter Art Display



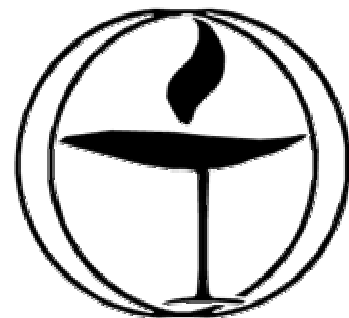
Our theme for the winter art display will be "Stillness". We will be hanging the display on December 7, so consider creating a piece of art or think of pieces you already have that would lend themselves to that theme. Original art from fellowship members of all ages is welcome. If you are interested in being part of the Art Committee who displays the art around the Fellowship, contact Gail Dolan, Art Committee Chair 725-3587 or gail@dolanmail.com.

UUA President's Africa Trip

In November, Reverend William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), embarked on a 19-day pilgrimage to six African countries: South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Ghana, and Nigeria. While there, he:

- Met with old and new colleagues among the Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists of Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, and South Africa,
- Learned from the experience and wisdom of leaders in Truth and Reconciliation work in South Africa, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu,
- Learned from leaders of social justice and human rights organizations involved in diverse struggles, including: LGBT Rights, Fair Wages, HIV/AIDS, Women's Rights, and Socially Responsible Investing,
- Visited the UNESCO World Heritage site and witness to the Atlantic Slave Trade.

If you are interested in learning more about the pilgrimage, see <http://tinyurl.com/sinkford> for more



Editorial Policy for FVUUF Published Materials

All of our FVUUF publications are primarily designed to inform members, friends and visitors about the activities of the Fellowship, thereby enhancing and deepening the life of our community. All items should be consistent with the Fellowship's mission and our UU principles, and will therefore be reviewed prior to publication with this in mind.

Why Join a Covenant Group?

FVUUF Members and Friends join Covenant Groups for various reasons:

- Meet new people you may not otherwise have the opportunity to get to know.
- Grow spiritually by learning about other's spiritual lives. Your own will be touched.
- Have deep, meaningful conversations on topics ranging from a beloved book to traditions to fear. In our busy lives, there usually isn't opportunity for this dedicated time to speak with others.
- Make new friends with others in your group. Do something new with your partner and enjoy being in a group together. Continue conversations about the topic long after the group is done.

If you've wanted to join a Covenant Group but wasn't sure it was for you or weren't able to make a long-term commitment to a group, then a short-term (4-month) group might be the solution for you. A short-term Covenant Group will be starting in January, meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 pm the last Thursday of the month until April: January 28, February 26, March 26, and April 30.

For more information about Covenant Groups or to get signed up for one, pick up a yellow brochure at the Fellowship and complete the response form. Or talk to Rosie Geiser, rosie@associatesforlife.com 920-830-1632 or to one of our ministers.

Update Your E-mail Address

Does the Fellowship have your current email address? We send out announcements through email no more than once a week, and it is a good way to know what is happening at the Fellowship. Send an email to fvuufsec@new.rr.com to request to be added.

UU World Magazine

All members of the Fellowship are eligible to receive the UU World, a magazine by the Unitarian Universalist Association. There are always copies in the lobby of the Fellowship to peruse. If you do not receive it, and are a member, please contact fvuufsec@new.rr.com to request to be added to the list (or if you would prefer not to receive it, we can take your name off the mailing list as well). The entire magazine can also be found online www.uuworld.org. You may elect to receive a weekly email highlighting articles from the current magazine and other information by going to this site.

Good Manners for a Healthy Congregation

As a parent of three young children, I recently found myself leafing through the pages of "How to Raise a Gentleman" by Kay West and was immediately reminded of the UU principle for a healthy congregation: **We hold honest and respectful communication as the basis of healthy relationships in community.** In the introduction of the book the author lists some things to remember when "leading the way to good manners" which seems to echo this principle:

- Use "please," "thank you," and "excuse me." Always.
- Wait your turn.
- Be generous with compliments and stingy with criticism.
- Listen when others speak, even if you've heard it before.
- Be clear about what you expect.
- Do not lose your temper.
- Admit when you are wrong; offer an apology when you owe one.
- Words can *hurt*; do not hurl them about as weapons.
- Respect those whose ideology differs.
- Agree to disagree.
- Give credit where credit is due.
- Lend a hand.
- Be a gracious loser and a generous winner.
- Be a good sport.
- Give more than you are asked.
- Don't take more than you need.
- Leave a place cleaner than you found it.
- Do not respond to rudeness with rudeness.

Simple, yet profound, these daily courtesies make for a happier home and a healthier congregation. When we extend good manners to others, we create safe, respectful, and healthy communication.

So, let's all try to focus on a few of the manners listed here this month... Please...and Thank You!

-Kristin Bock
Healthy Congregation Team

UUA President Forum

The candidates for President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) gathered for a forum recently. There will be an election for this position and others at the next General Assembly in June. You can watch the forum or read a transcript at <http://tinyurl.com/uuapresident>.



All are welcome to attend any group or activity listed. For more information on getting involved at the Fellowship, please contact Marie Murton, Membership Coordinator, at fvuufmem@new.rr.com or 731-0849.

Please sign up for all Adult Enrichment Classes on the bulletin board near the staff wing in the lobby of the Fellowship or call 731-0849.

UU 101

Tuesdays, January 27 & February 3; 7:00 PM – 9:15 PM
Facilitators: Rev. Roger Bertschausen & Rev. Dottie Mathews
Participants: Min. 5 /Max. 30

This program is intended for new members or those considering becoming members of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, though all are welcome to participate. It offers information about our history, governance, programs, and liberal faith. This class is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Fellowship and meet others within the FVUUF community.

Appleton North High School's Theatre Seminar performing "Much Like You."

Wednesday, January 14; 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Facilitators: Appleton No. HS Theatre Seminar
Participants: Min. 10

Appleton North High School's Theatre Seminar will present an original play on disability awareness called "Much Like You." Following the performance, the audience will have an opportunity to dialogue with the theatre company about the production and their understanding of disability awareness. This eye-opening play, which engages the audience both emotionally and intellectually, has been enthusiastically received by youth and adults.



High School Gay/Straight Alliances

Wednesday, January 28; 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Facilitator: Rev. Roger Bertschausen
Participants: Min. 10

It wasn't many years ago that courageous students and faculty fought the hard battle of opening the doors of their schools to Gay/Straight Alliances (GSA's). Now they are present in most area high schools. A panel of members of Gay/Straight Alliances from area high schools will share their experiences of participating in GSA's. They'll also share their experiences as a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning student, or as a straight ally. There will be plenty of time for questions and conversation.

Bridget's Bemusing

From Bridget Kramer, Director of Religious Education

As we roll into the holidays I am once again reminded of my goal to make this season one of joy and less stress. This means for me, less shopping, more creating, and hours of letting go of my expectations. I am reminded that the rituals of my childhood were both important and, at times, harmful. My mom often talks about the need to have many presents under the tree and buying for EVERYONE we know. As our family grows we have tried to keep it simple. One small gift from Al and me for our children, and one gift from Santa. But the hiding of gifts and creating things for birth parents and grandparents is always fun – once a decision has been made about what to do.

This becomes a season of family rather than commercialism and that is one of the things that drew us to the Fellowship. During the month of December there are very few RE classes, in fact there is only one week of RE. The rest is Intergenerational. **Intergenerational services** are not about making parents feel uncomfortable because their child is noisy or struggles sitting still. It is about our community growing together and supporting all aspects of family. It is a wonderful way for all to learn and grow from the wisdom of children and the grace of our elders. Please feel free to come into the sanctuary together, sit where your children feel comfortable – not near the closest "escape routes" – and enjoy this time with a very sacred group of people.

There are Activity Packets kept on the bookstore shelves for the children to use during services. They are free and available for all children. They include coloring pages and a few crayons.

-Bridget

December RE Schedule

December 6-7th

Spirit Play – The Rooster Who Learned to Crow
1,2,3 - Gift Giving
4th and 5th – Charles Dickens
6th, 7th, and 8th – True or False
Youth Group – Work on Emergency Shelter Shoe Boxes

December 13th and 14th

INTERGENERATIONAL – Revels

December 20th-21st

INTERGENERATIONAL – Solstice

December 28th – ONLY ONE SERVICE at 9:15 a.m.
NO RE CLASSES

Fundraising Guidelines Reminder From the Finance Committee

Last Year as we continued our Fellowship's growth, we needed to take certain steps to maintain a sense of worship, community, and order around services. The Finance Committee put in place new fundraising guidelines that took effect as of January 1, 2008. Basically, the main change was that fundraisers will be limited to Fellowship events or FVUUF committee actions that benefit the wider community.

Completion of a simple fundraising request form will be reviewed and decided on by the Finance Committee. The request form must be submitted to the Business Administrator a minimum of 30 days prior to the event. The accommodation of requests will be on a "first come, first serve" basis, while taking into account the Fellowship calendar and space limitations. Please be aware that we are limited by open dates and space are, so please plan ahead and submit your requests early in order to meet your goals.

To obtain a Fundraising Event Request Form and a copy of the guidelines, please contact the Business Administrator, Siri Witt, at fvufoa@new.rr.com.

Thinking About Joining?

On the first Sunday of the month I will be offering a Fellowship Welcome Class presenting the history of Unitarianism and Universalism, outlining the major principles and beliefs of each of these religious traditions and how they became one under Unitarian Universalism. Also, we trace the history of the Fellowship up to where we are today, and we cover the new member process, the meaning of joining, and the commitment and responsibilities of membership. All are welcome to attend this class without prior registration. **The next class will be on Sunday Dec.7 at 10:30am.**

We encourage all who wish to join our community to consider areas you would like to get involved in. When you would like to join or talk about joining, Rev. Dottie Mathews and I are offering times on Saturday mornings for you to meet with each of us individually to discuss this exciting decision. I will talk with you about the different aspects of membership, including involvement and financial support. Dottie will talk with you about your personal spiritual journey.

Please contact me at fvuufmem@new.rr.com or 920-731-0849 to schedule a time on one of these dates (or another time if these don't work for you): the next date is **Saturday January 10**. Other dates throughout the year will be 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/9 from 9-11 a.m.

-Marie Murton, Membership Coordinator

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote these principles in our Fellowship and in our religious education program:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relationships.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Return service requested

2600 E. Phillip Lane
P.O. Box 1791
Appleton, WI 54912-1791

