



Fellowship Focus

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Elkhart

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OCTOBER 2008

President

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Minister Emeriti

Rev. Dr. Gordon D. Gibson
Rev. Robert T. Dick

Office Administrator

Kim Chaple
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Hours: 9:00-1:00
Tuesday & Thursday

Childcare

Lizzie French

Sunday Mornings at UUFE

9:30 – 10:15 In the Meeting House
Adult Forum

10:30 – 11:40 In the Meeting House
Sunday Service

Enrichment Activities for Children
Tender, Loving Childcare for Infants and Toddlers

October 5, 2008

9:30 - Adult Forum

10:30 - Rev. Amy shares her sermon that she gave during pre-candidating week. Based on the book, *The Tipping Point*, I ask the question, "What is a Good Epidemic?" First Sunday—collected goods for AIDS Pantry

October 12, 2008

9:30 - Adult Forum

10:30 - Lay Sunday

October 19, 2008

9:30 - Adult Forum

10:30 - Association Sunday—Growing Our Spirit "Calling all Leaders"
Rev. Amy explores lay and professional leadership as a calling. Third Sunday—Potluck and collected goods for CCS

October 26, 2008

9:30 - Adult Forum

10:30 - "The Thinnest Veil" During this time of Samhein, All Hallows Eve, and Day of the Dead, the veil between this world and the spirit world is thin. Remember ancestors and those departed by bringing pictures for our altar.

November 2

"A Faithful Democracy" Rev. Amy will discuss, in non-partisan language, the real rules of keeping church and state separate, even and especially during election times.

The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Elkhart
is a
welcoming community
encouraging
Religious freedom,
nurturing
individual, spiritual and
ethical growth,
celebrating
diversity, and
promoting a just and
sustainable world.

The Minister's Column by Rev. Amy

Summer is slipping into Autumn and the whole outdoors seems to be changing daily. The squirrels are gathering nuts, the kids are getting back into classes, and adults are turning more inward as we think about fall and winter. For its coolness, the colored leaves, and harvest themes, fall is definitely my favorite season.

In September I have been getting used to actually having an office, which I have not had before. Back to school and back to Sunday school has been an adventure at home and the church, and I think that a work rhythm has emerged that I can share with you. I am available to meet with you in the evenings, but will not post evening office hours because I choose not to be at the church alone in the evenings.

Amy's Office Hours

Monday Office hours 1-5

Tuesday Office hours 9-2 (In Chicago the first Tuesday)

Wednesday Office hours 1-5 (At meeting 3rd Wednesdays)

Thursday Sermon writing day, meetings

Friday OFF

Saturday Available by appt, fellowship events

Sunday Worship, Youth Group, meetings

Here is information on a few upcoming events that I'm really looking forward to as a chance for all of us to have fun and build closer bonds together.

Tuesday, October 14 from 5:30 to 9 pm

Ministerial Start-up with our Congregational Service Director, Rev. Ian Evison

Now that I am actually here and working, let's all share ideas on how to make this shared ministry effective. Rev. Ian will lead us through talking and listening to each other about our history, (warts and all), our norms, (spoken and silent), and who does what at our church. Dinner will be provided so that we can jump right in and do our start-up. Please come to all or part of this evening so that we all come out knowing better what to expect from each other.

Sunday, December 7 at 4 pm at Uufe

Installation of Rev. Amy DeBeck

An installation is the formal and ceremonial event during which the covenant between me, your minister, and you, the congregation, is made public and solemnized. Plan to be at Uufe for this Unitarian Universalist service that will include ministers from our tradition and from the interfaith community.

AROUND THE MEETING HOUSE

Recommended by UUFE for Your Fall Reading Pleasure

“Treasure Island” by Robert Louis Stevenson*

“The Devil's Horsemen: the Mongol Invasion of Europe” by James Chambers *

“First Man in Rome” by Colleen McCullough *

“The Autobiography of Henry VIII: With Notes by His Fool, Will Somers” by Margaret George *

“Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise? and other Imponderables” by David Feldman *

- * Books available at the Elkhart Public Library

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Another Bob Milne Concert is scheduled for January:

We will host a Bob Milne concert at UUFE on Saturday, January 31st. Volunteers are needed for hall setup, ticket sales, refreshments, sound system, door keeper, and poster distribution. There will be a clipboard by the name tags with space for your name and your how you'd like to help. Or, give your name to Dave Stokely.

MUSIC GROUP

The next meeting of the recorded **music listening group** will be held on Sunday, October 12 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Martha Pickrell.

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS CARELINE

Sheila & Jerry Shaw send a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who prepared meals & transported them to their home during the first week of Sheila's adjustment to doing household tasks. Sheila has multiple breaks in 2 bones in her leg and her recovery is expected to take 6 weeks. She appreciates ALL phone calls.

UUFE was represented in Elkhart's **Solidarity Walk** on Saturday, September 13. At least 7 of us were seen walking from the Mennonite Seminary to the Plaza in Elkhart. Taking part in community events is a way we can reach outside of our building and connect with the larger community.

Let's remember those among us who find it difficult to attend Sunday Services. Names who come to my mind are **Jean Snow, Shirley Ivy, Nancy Bugajski, Moxie Robinson, and Pat Bryan**. A "How Ya' Doin' Phone Call" would be the caring thing for us to do.

Mary Ann Carroll is recovering nicely from her injured arm. It's good to see her smile!

Don't forget to remember **Jean Snow** in your quiet moments. I can't prove it, but I believe being remembered and thought about has a positive effect on a person's ability to get through difficult times.

Mark Feller is doing as well as he can, given the death of his father, Ernie Feller. His death left an empty spot in Mark's life. Mark enjoys receiving cards, the best way to get them to Mark is put his name on the envelope, but mail them to Moxie Robinson 29988 Hickory Lane Elkhart, IN 46514

I haven't heard anything lately about **Pat Bryan**, who is at Holy Cross Care & Rehab Center. I do know, that we miss her vibrant sense of humor and smile.

Thanks from B & G

For leaving the milkweed patch in the west side of the west parking lot. In terms of landscaping beauty we need to interplant goldenrod which blooms when the milkweeds start looking awful. Trenches for goldenrod seeds are already dug. Under the other locust tree we need milkweed seeds, autumn aster (blue, large patch on CR 45 under the 20 bypass) and butterfly weed (large field of them NW of the Golden Egg). We need all the seeds we can get. Germination of weed seeds is low so even if they are already there put more in. Then, we have to think about a spring underplanting. Ideas, anyone?

Here in Indiana "fall" means exactly that-the falling leaves drift by my window. It takes 7 trees to absorb carbon dioxide, keep the carbon and give one person enough oxygen to survive & I'm not talking about precious little crabapples with apples so big no bird can eat them.

UUFEE has some big trees with lots of leaves & we also still have lots of grass for leaves to fall on. The leaves are fertilizer for the woods. It's 'green' to put the leaves under trees and bushes.

Last spring when I dug bleeding heart, Dutchman's britches, etc. in my childhood woods I had to clear 2 to 3 inches of leaves & twigs to get down to the soil surface to lift out the plants. Our north woods has 1/4 to 1/2 inch of mulch covering. It's not enough.

So, plan on some Saturday towards the end of October. We need rakes, tarps, carts, blowers (for those who don't mind gas fumes) and gumption (look it up). Check Sunday program and Ron Gill's activities reminder.

Does anyone know what kind of grass is beside the RE ramp? It's great stuff! If so, see Doris Stickel

Rose of Sharon by Doris Stickel

The rose is described as the perfect flower in the Song of Solomon. Sharon is a large valley in Palestine where Solomon sang about the lilies of the field, etc. It was known as the Plain of Sharon. The mention of the rose is interpreted as a foretelling of the coming of Jesus. In gardens planted with only biblically named plants the Rose of Sharon, *Hibiscus syriacus*, is always included. In our climate this plant is one of the few that bloom at the end of summer. They make a great hedge plant, they are not long lived but they reseed prolifically and only old age can kill them.

Six or seven years ago David and I and Mike Darnel were out by the Meditation-Memorial Garden talking and two women came to us. Vicky, the secretary receptionist at the Cemetery office, brought her aunt. When her aunt's sister died she'd had this stone made to put in her Catholic church garden and started a grief support group. The group eventually dissolved and for some reason they couldn't keep the stone at the Catholic church. Vick's aunt was at a loss as to what to do with the stone so they talked with one of the funeral home people. And, something amazing happened. The funeral home people recommended that they come to the UUs about accepting the stone.

The three of us looked at each other and shrugged and couldn't think of any reason to say no. The aunt said she would like the stone where she could come to visit it. Unfortunately, the stone was smashed by a ten year old named Donnie who lived in the neighborhood.

I have a mortician relative. I can't stress strongly enough how important this recommendation to bring the "rose" stone to us, UUFEE, from a funeral home employee is. Funeral homes know churches, their staff, the activities of their staff, good and bad situations often before some members even know. We are known as an accepting, supportive and caring community to the funeral home business, and this is good for us.



Important Update on Our Building Expansion



The Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Capital Campaign Committee and the Building Committee, is pleased to announce that plans for our building expansion are moving forward this Fall. Designs for our new Social Hall/Multipurpose area are being developed by architects of The Troyer Group. This project would enlarge our current building toward the south (toward the Children's House), and provide about 1700 square feet of additional space for the activities of our Fellowship.



Timeline



Sunday, September 28, and Sunday, October 12 -- Informational meetings will be held after church services for all members and friends.



All are urged to attend at least one of these meetings. This is a time to ask questions of the Board, Capital Campaign Committee, and Building Committee as we go over the specifics of the budget, the fund-raising, and the new addition. We may even have preliminary drawings to view.



Early November --



Final drawings will be presented, with a congregational vote tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 9. At this time, the congregation will be asked to approve both the budget and the design for our new Social Hall.



Mid November -- The Capital Campaign will begin.



Financial Details



These are the preliminary figures proposed by the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Endowment Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee. The Board also relied heavily upon a Financial Feasibility Study by UUA consultant Aggie Sweeney in shaping a realistic financial goal for our building project. The budget will be offered for the congregation's approval in November.



\$125,000 Capital Campaign



\$100,000 from our Endowment



\$ 75,000 mortgage



\$ 50,000 Arbogast Grant



\$ 25,000 Designated Donations





\$375,000 Budget for Building Expansion



From the Webmaster

Please take the time to check out the new web site design. Go to: www.uufe.org
In particular, take note of the new sermon podcast feature, frequently updated calendar and discussion board. I also want everyone to know that we are in the process of formulating an official privacy statement - with respect to the web site. At this point, I can *informally* let everyone know that I will only post pictures of minors with their parent's or guardian's written permission. For adults, if you find your photo on our site and would prefer it to not be there - let me know and I will honor a request to take it off. In either case, photos will never be identified with names. Let us all play a role in developing this new form of communication - both within our UUFE community and the larger Michiana community! As always - send comments to Greg Koehler at gregkoehler1@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday night, October 25 5-8 pm at UUFE Pancake Dinner and Trunk or Treat Wear a costume if you want to, then fill your car with Halloween treats and decorate your trunk for Halloween. First you come to church and have breakfast for dinner. (Pancakes and other yummy breakfast items) Then the young and young at heart go outside, from trunk to trunk collecting Halloween goodies. Fun for everybody, all ages. **NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN!**

Membership Classes for new and not-so-new folks at UUFE

Three Sunday afternoons to find out more about this chosen faith, from 4 to 6 pm on October 19, 26, AND November 2. Meet with Rev. Amy and a whole cast of lay leaders as we explore our paths that brought us here, talk about membership, and tell of UU history and the UUFE story.

Here comes the Ooey Goopy Auction! UUFE Saturday, November 15, time TBD Look for the donation forms coming your way and online! Start planning now for what you will offer, dream of what you will buy. Being organized right now by your ad-hoc auction committee, the goods and services offered are really delightful, and just in time for holiday gift giving.

Library Corner

Robin Carlson's daughters have donated beautiful two books from Robin's collection. These are *_The World of Carl Larsson_* and *_Carl and Karin Larsson, Creators of the Swedish Style_*. A visit to Robin's home would have made it evident that Carl Larson was Robin's favorite artist. Other donated books recently added to the library are *_A Complaint Free World_* by Will Bowen, *_One Nation Under Law_* by Mark McGarvie, *_The Great Divide: Second Thoughts on the American Dream_* by Studs Terkel, *_An Open Life_* by Joseph Campbell, *_The Emerging Self: A Celtic Journey_* by Joseph Mast. These books may be borrowed from the UUFE library located in the hallway to the office, where they are color-coded by subject on the library shelves. To borrow a book, please enter the title of the book and your name in the library notebook. Keep the book as long as you need, then cross out the entry when the book is returned.

Many thanks for these donations! If you have books you have enjoyed and are now ready to pass on for someone else's enjoyment, please leave them on the table in the office and the Archives Committee will add them to the library shelves.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD AND COMMITTEES

At its Sept. 17 meeting, the board of trustees:

--Approved a revised committee structure that replaces department coordinators with board liaisons. Each board member would serve as liaison to two committees, while some committees would report directly to the board. The idea came out of a re-evaluation of UUFE's committee structure and built off the strong work of David Ball, Doloris Cogan, Gordon Hostetler, William Becker and Byrd Tetzlaff in revising the committee structure two years ago.

--Entertained a proposal from the Care Committee that it operate as a more nimble, potentially larger group known as "pastoral associates" performing the same functions as the existing committee.

--Learned that the UUFE campus is now served by DSL high-speed Internet service from Verizon as well as a wireless router.

--Discussed the LEED certification issue as it pertains to the new building project.

--Committed to doing a better job of responding to and acknowledging monetary gifts with thank-you notes in response to a letter from a member.

--Heard a report from Rev. DeBeck regarding the first meeting of the youth group, which attracted eight attendees, all girls.

--Gave the preliminary go-ahead for UUFE to host a workshop for Equality Indiana, a group which works on GLBT issues. The one-day workshop would be sometime in November or December.

--**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: Ron Gill**, for serving as a bridge from UUFE's institutional memory to the present, in spearheading revisions to the committee structure based on what was established two years ago when the current structure was put in place under the proviso that it be re-evaluated as needed.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

What does it feel like when you arrive for the Sunday service at UUFE? Does it feel like you are seeing an extended family? Does it feel comfortable?

We want to maintain these good feelings. As the Stewardship Committee co-chairman for this year my responsibility is to make certain that we are able to continue, even improve, the programs and qualities that make us who we are.

And, folks, that does take a financial pledge from each and every one of us!

But, you might ask, what IS stewardship? It means taking care of something we value AND enabling it to grow. Stewardship is taking responsibility and making a contribution of our talents, time, and money. Be a good steward of UUFE and share your resources and abilities. Add your strength to the strength of others so that our UUFE will be empowered.

"COME SING A SONG WITH US, COME DREAM A DREAM WITH US"

Great News from the Archives and History Committee

We're adding a new name - Starting next month, our UUFE history column will be supplied by Kevin DeBeck, an enthusiastic historian who has joined the Archives and History Committee. Welcome, Kevin!

NEWS FROM THE LARGER UU WORLD

Association Sunday 2008!

The success of the first Association Sunday, raising \$1.4 million from 626 congregations shows what can be possible when we come together to support our common goals. Our second Association Sunday, scheduled for October 12, 2008, will raise funds to support projects focused on deepening our Shared Ministry. The theme is *Growing Our Spirit*. The following specific initiatives were chosen based on a survey of Unitarian Universalist leaders—to which over 1,828 responded—whose 1st and 2nd priorities are represented in this plan.

50% of the funds raised for Association Sunday 2008 will support Lay Theological Education programs:

Congregations, districts, and seminaries will have the opportunity to apply for grants to create programs which focus on spiritual and theological deepening.

50% of the funds raised for Association Sunday 2008 will be divided equally among the following Excellence in Ministry programs:

The Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association new initiatives for continuing education programs for ordained leaders through their CENTER programs.

Scholarships for promising students preparing for our ministry.

NEWS FROM THE LARGER COMMUNITY

CROP Walk

When? Sunday, October 5, 2:00 pm (register between 1:00 and 2:00)

Where? Island Park, Elkhart

As of Sunday, Sept. 21, we have 6 UUFERS registered to walk for CROP. We'd like to have twice that number! Please consider joining us in this community witness for justice and peace. Our UUFERS walkers are Sarah Weigold, Carolee Searles, Heidi Rupley, Lynn Schmidt (and Bailey), Jim Raudabaugh, and Jenny Bartlett. See details below about how to sponsor them

Q. What is the CROP walk? (see the website for full details - www.elkhartcropwalk.com)

A. It's an annual event in communities across America, involving over 2 million walkers, sponsors and volunteers raising money to help fight hunger and poverty both at home and around the globe. This will be the 29th annual Elkhart County CROP walk. Last year, the event drew about 450 walkers and raised over \$62,000.

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Sarah Weigold</i>
5 <i>Cameo Victor</i> 11:45 B&G Crop Walk	6 <i>Joan Clayborn</i> 7:00 PM Meditation	7 <i>Laura Dolezal, Linda Gill, Allison Gill</i>	8	9 <i>Linda Becker</i>	10	11
12	13 7:00 PM Meditation	14	15 FOCUS DEADLINE	16	17	18
19 <i>David Stokely</i>	20 7:00 PM Meditation	21	22 <i>Gordon Gibson</i>	23	24	25
26 Noon LRE	27 7:00 PM Meditation	28	29	30	31	

UUFE ROOTS

Names, Names, Names

Our congregation's "culture" has included some interesting names for things. Our founders first called themselves the Elkhart Community Group of the First Unitarian Church of South Bend, changing at the time of official organization in May, 1961 to the more permanent and familiar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart. The governing board of the new congregation was known as the Board of Trustees until 1966, when it became the Governing Council.

The name was changed back to the Board of Trustees in 2002. In 1963, our church building at 1732 Garden St. was constructed in such a way as to be usable as a house if the church failed. Fittingly, it was, and has been, called the Fellowship House, though in recent years other terms have surfaced, such as the Meeting House, or, more informally, the Main Building. The room we enter from the front door is the Foyer. The larger room with view of the woods, where members and friends gather for Sunday services and other events, has been known as the Meeting Room, or the Fellowship Room. In recent years, the more traditional, church-like term Sanctuary has sometimes been used. The house to the south at 1718 Garden St., purchased in 1993, was first called UURE, or the RE Building, later the RE House; now it has been re-christened the Children's House.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1732 Garden Street
Elkhart, IN 46515

FIRST CLASS

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart is a welcoming community, encouraging religious freedom, nurturing individual, spiritual and ethical growth, celebrating diversity, and promoting a just and sustainable world.