

June 2009

Service Schedule:

- June 7** Appreciation Day
- June 14** Intrigue and Mayhem
- June 21** Wrap It Up And Take It With You
- June 28** TBA

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

The church year ends this month. WOW! What does that mean for UUCE and for your minister?

To begin, I will represent UUCE as a delegate to General Assembly the last week in June. When I return, I'll share the highlights with you in the Sunday July 5th service. Then it's time for study leave, vacation, the Katrina service trip and a five day English retreat with Thich Nhat Hanh. I am excited.

Except for the times when I am out of state, I will be available for emergencies. Meditation will continue on Mondays and Fridays at noon, although there may be a week or two when. I will respond to emails and telephone calls, but perhaps not instantaneously. Although I will not attend regularly scheduled meetings, I would be delighted to participate in committee or task force retreats.

This has been a wonderful year. Just think about the changes we have made, the traditions that we have kept, and the love that circulates here. Perhaps you can understand my excitement in realizing that, now that I know you better, I can begin planning for next year. For example, just this week I ran across a neat script and thought, "This would be perfect for the UUCE Players!" I hope that you too are thinking in future terms and will give some thought and words to the question: what would be good for next year.

On June 7th we will ask you to plan for the coming year by signing up for committees and activities. Later this summer we hope to publish a master calendar for the year. By August we will have an adult RE skeleton

schedule. Please contribute! Give us your ideas. Let us know what you want. Concretely we are asking you for social justice and religious exploration ideas. Should we continue movie night? Does Brown Bag Luncheon meet a need? Please brainstorm, imagine and vision.

Be ready. Next year promises to be amazing and it starts out right away, this July. The Center for Congregations grant which we received affords us the marvelous opportunity to develop new interests and skills as we contribute to UUCE. We are in particular need of persons with interests in technology, - internet, websites, newsletters, finance. Please note that I used the word "interests" not "skills." This can be a fun learning time for us. In fact, you may want to learn without making a long term commitment. That's a good thing.

I am so proud to be a member of this community and to share myself as your minister.

Summer blessings,

--Rev Deane

Deane Oliva
Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville
812 474-1704

SUNDAY SERVICES

June 7th – Appreciation Day – Join us for this intergenerational service of celebration as we appreciate the volunteers in this church, prepare for the new year, and receive our summer Joy and Contemplation stones. – Rev Deane and Tom Moor, Worship Associate

June 14th – Intrigue and Mayhem – Unitarian Universalism's relationship to Afro Americans will be explored with emphasis on its intriguing relationship to General Assembly. – Rev Deane and Diane Brewer, Worship Associate

June 21st – Wrap It Up and Take It With You – This end of the year wrap up by Rev Deane will highlight her views of this past year at UUCE

and plans for the future. –Rev Deane and John Schaeffer, Worship Associate.

June 28th – TBA - Worship Associate,, Tom Moor

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

UUCE Board of Director's meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

DO YOU HAVE THE VISION?

The next step in our planning process is to develop the vision statement for UUCE. This, like the mission statement, will be an open process and we want to have your ideas.

We're starting with an open meeting on Thursday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Bring your best ideas and we'll brainstorm through a thought process that will help direct us further down the path of the process. As always, there are no right and wrong answers.

We hope to see you there!

MEDITATION

Meditation will continue Mondays and Fridays at noon at UUCE. It will last approximately 40 minutes.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

We have an opportunity to vendor-participate in at least two festivals this summer. The first is June 19th and 20th. Announcements will be made on Sundays. Stay tuned for more information.

TIME AND TALENT SIGN UP

June 7th is Appreciation Sunday. After the service the foyer will be filled with clip boards and sign ups for the coming church year. *Now is the time to think about what you would like to commit to this next year.* Some of you may be continuing the work that you have already begun; others may

want to switch to or add a new area. Some may not have made an actual commitment in the past; we ask you to consider supporting your church in this very useful way. There are many types of tasks necessary to the sustenance of our church community. Some occur regularly, - once a week, once a month – others are more unique. Some have a set time schedule; others can be accomplished on your time schedule. Here is a sample:

- Volunteer at United Caring Shelter X times per year.
- Change the leaderboard/marquee early each week.
- Copy and fold the Order of service.
- Three hole punch three copies of each week's Order of Service and place in notebook.
- Join a committee
- Be a greeter.
- Spruce up the kitchen on a monthly basis

These ideas are a sample of the opportunities at UUCE. Please bring your thoughts and pen on Sunday, June 7th

Calling All Fundraising Ideas!

The Stewardship Committee is organizing a fundraising committee to organize and promote the ideas of fundraising that are all around our congregation. This is important in order to create a "Yes, We Can" attitude among our membership when it comes to projects (special or ongoing) that require funding.

Different types of fundraising endeavors are possible. The Fall Festival is a lot of fun for those who volunteer their time and talents and offer a chance to "put our word out" in an informal manner to those within our community that may not know much about our religion and our church. It is a very significant part of our fundraising activities on an ongoing basis -- the booths at the festival are mostly renewed at the end of the festival for next year's festival -- lots of advance planning and preparations are needed to make it as successful as it can be.

Other types of fundraising are ongoing, lower profile activities, such as using GoodSearch. Jan Steinmark has organized this capability and often has reminders in our bulletins and around the church to get people to use it -- painlessly -- when they search the web. Other similar projects can help the church. I recently got us registered at Home Depot so we can purchase items for the church there without paying sales tax. This may not seem like a big deal until you realize that getting a 7% discount on our

budget next year would amount to over \$8,000. Of course, we can't get a 7% discount on everything in our budget, but let's be sure we are getting that savings where possible.

A third type of fundraising endeavor involves internal fund drives for a special purpose. An example of this was the special fund drive to raise funds to offer a competitive bonus arrangement as we worked to recruit our new minister. We are considering initiating a special fund drive to help offset the costs of the growth projects that we will be undertaking as a result of the "Bridge Between Ideas and Reality" (Grant) project as funded by the Center for Congregations (CFC) and Lilly Endowment. The CFC will provide about \$8,000 in funding for these projects. We will need to come up with slightly more than that in order to implement the projects.

The biggest question is whether you are ready and willing to become a champion for some type of fundraising endeavor for the benefit of UUCE. For years now, Teri Rawlings has made huge sacrifices in order to implement our booth at the Fall Festival so she is obviously an example of a dedicated champion. What kind of activity could you manage for the benefit of UUCE? Would you be willing to organize an occasional rummage sale? Does developing a vegan/vegetarian food festival appeal more to your taste? Or maybe you want to help coordinate the publicity around the use of scrips from local merchants.

Bring your fundraising ideas to the organizational meeting of the fundraising committee on June 4th at 6:30 PM at the church. Join us as we work to organize and promote fundraising at UUCE.

EASY FUNDRAISERS

All of us would like to donate generously to the financial running of our church, and here are two ways that won't cost you a cent! When you are preparing to search cyberspace go to www.goodsearch.com, type in the charity as "Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville" and each search generates about a penny. And when you are shopping on-line, just take one additional step - first go to www.goodshop.com, (again the charity is Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville) then click on your store and place your order - and the store will donate a percentage to our church! Now, how easy is that?

BAKE SALE

The Social Justice Committee will have a bake sale on Sunday, June 14, following the service. We will have all kinds of various baked goods, so bring some extra change and your sweet tooth and help support our endeavors!

Annual Church Dinner Presentation

Over the past year, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville has accomplished so much together, and I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that we are not the Church that we were last year. We have truly entered a new era with a strong start.

In so many areas, we have grown in new directions. People. Congressional life. Leadership. Purpose. Organization. Commitment. Stewardship. And we have renewed our dedication to a just and sustainable world. With this in mind, let's revisit the past year's accomplishments.

Achievements for 2008-2009

1. Minister: This will always be remembered as the year our second called minister began her journey with us.

Last year, at this time we were only anticipating the arrival of our new settled minister. Last August, Deane joined us to become our second called minister. Her arrival was memorable as our outgoing interim minister Carolyn Brown and our new minister Deane Oliva participated in a passing of the keys ceremony, which was a rare treat. Since her arrival, Deane has brought to us her energy and commitment, which has been contagious and inspiring. Our Board members covenanted with her in October with Heartland District's guidance. We worked hard to make sure that our contractual obligations to Deane have been met in full. Just recently, we celebrated her installation in a ceremony that involved ministers from across the city and UU ministers from the region.

2. Leadership.

We respect the equal but tri-part structure of this Church. This consists of the UUCE Board, the Minister and the Committee on Ministry.

We also strengthened our relationships with other Unitarians in celebrating UU Sunday, working with Heartland, attending regional meeting and training events.

The Board created a new working relationship with Church committees this year. At the start of the Church year, each committee was asked to present its

goals and activities for the next year. There were conversations and the Board, I believe, was permission giving in letting those committees do what its members were passionate about. The Board wanted to make sure each committee had the resources needed to carry out their plans. These activities were tracked through regular and quarterly Church Council meetings with committee leaders. Organized in this way, the Church leadership worked together effectively and with a renewed vitality that is reflected in all of our other achievements.

3. Congregational Life.

We saw the Congregation ramp up its activities over the summer and continue to develop throughout the year. We can see this through a number of select activities: Decorating our sanctuary walls. Blueberry picking. Committee fairs. Movie nights. Brown bag lunches. Meditation sessions. Dinners for Eight. And a Zoo outing to celebrate Earth Day.

Our Religious Exploration program has reported growing enrollment numbers: Over 30 students. We should also note that we have strived to make childcare available at every event where we know families will be in attendance.

We also supported our choir this year through special gifts as we worked to develop the musical talents within our Church.

And our Caring Committee has been there for us in our times of joys or sorrows. We are truly grateful that we have such caring individuals who put thoughts into action.

4. Purpose: This year, we jumped wholeheartedly in to defining ourselves for a new era.

We did this through telling our own stories, which were shared in World Café events. Those events culminated in the following mission statement:

"UUCE is a welcoming congregation that encourages religious freedom, nurtures individual spiritual and ethical growth, celebrates diversity, and promotes a just and sustainable world."

In the future, other meetings will help us to forge a vision and strategic plan.

5. Grant.

Another historical event in our Church occurred this year: We received an \$8,000 grant from the Center for Congregations. Next year, we will be implementing the grant to make further improvements in membership, communication and building plans.

6. Caring for what we have.

This year, the leadership took a walk through our House and Grounds. We know that the Church will have to make a decision in the next few years about future plans to stay or to find a new place. It will be a decision that is formed and made together as we seek to carry out our vision and mission statement.

House and Grounds has made improvements throughout the building by fixing doors, installing new thermostats, putting up flag holders or spraying for termites among a list of items. That committee held regular spruce up days to make our Church shine for key events.

This year, we have a new look and feel thanks to a generous loan arrangement and much hard work from Jack and Alice Carden. A wall was knocked out. The space of our main room was opened up. A sink and cabinet were installed. The walls were repainted. And hard wood floors were put down.

7. Safe Congregations.

We also revisited our Safe Congregation Policy. We made sure that every member and friend of our Church had the revised policy in hand. And we conducted a thorough review to make sure we were doing what we said we doing in our policy.

8. Expanded social justice efforts.

This month we had a large committee meeting for social justice. The committee has grown from two at the beginning of the year to many people with shared energies who participate in a variety of service activities.

Our Green Sanctuary effort this year was coordinated through RE. The idea was to educate the kids and then have them kids educate us for Earth Day. Another effort this year was to begin to make our social gatherings green for a just and sustainable world. The Annual Dinner event this year was vegan and we made every effort to reduce our waste by making better choices in dishes, silverware and napkins. The plan isw to continue making inroads until we have a more green environment.

At the beginning of my term, I delivered a sermon called "New Beginnings." It was about the purpose of rituals for the young and old alike. The lesson was that that through our rituals we grow together and become stronger and better focused as a people to create the kind of world that we want to live in. This year, we have grown together.

We will continue to grow. With next year's new team, which consists of our Board led by Jan Steinmark, our Minister, and our Committee on

Ministry led by Mark Rigney, as well all the Committees, we will work with the Congregation to continue yet unfinished goals and achieve more.

I have been proud to be your President this year. I want to thank each and every one of you for your shared commitment to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville.

In Peace, Chad Tew

GREETERS NEEDED

Want to contribute to the church in a meaningful way but only have, say, 20 minutes a week to spare? Perfect! Be a greeter! Greeters are those wonderful, smiling people you've noticed welcoming people at the door, passing out hymnals in the sanctuary, and straightening up chairs after the service on Sundays. It's a fun, easy, and important job that doesn't take much time at all. Interested? See me, Lauren Talley, in church, or contact me via email (xgj36@hotmail.com) or phone. I look forward to hearing from you!

WANTED: Greeter Coordinator

As most of you know by now, I will be moving to Indianapolis sometime at the end of the summer. Therefore, the church will need another Greeter Coordinator. The Greeter Coordinator's job is to find/assign people to be greeters each Sunday morning (2 for each time, one at the main door and one in the sanctuary). There are already lists typed up of greeter duties for people who haven't greeted before and I even have a handy little notebook for you to write names down in. No manual labor or meetings required - just talk to people and ask them to be greeters! You can be one too, but you're not required to be. If interested, please call or email xgj36@hotmail.com Lauren Talley

UUCE WATER LEAK

Thanks to the wonderful folks who came in to help clean up after the water leak. Thanks to you, the church is put back together and ready for business almost as usual.

On Friday, May 22 the line to the water cooler broke sending water spewing up to the ceiling and then all over the floor in the back portion of the church.

Folks mopped, wet vacuumed, and gathered pitchers full of water on Friday. On Saturday we cut out the carpets, dried as much as possible,

threw out irretrievably damaged products, etc. We were done by 11 AM.

The insurance company has been called. We have made an inventory of what we know has been damaged, what we suspect may be damaged, and those items that we are watching in case of damage.

Thanks to everyone who helped.

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

The UUCE discussion group meets the 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 9:00 AM at the church.

POTLUCK

Our monthly potluck will be on June 28 following the service. Plan to join us and gather with fellow UU's for good food and good conversation!

SUGGESTIONS WANTED

Do you have an idea for a deserving organization or agency for our monthly donations and 3rd Sunday plate shares? We would like to have a yearly schedule made up by this fall, and your suggestions are very much needed! Please contact Jan at jansteinmark@yahoo.com

SUMMER DONATIONS AND PLATE SHARES

We are going to do something a little different for June, July, and August monthly donations and plate shares. We have begun fixing and serving dinner at United Caring Shelter on the 3rd Friday of each month, and we are in need of supplies. Hopefully over the summer we can build up a cupboard of necessary items so we aren't rushed at the last minute. So, during the month of June, please bring in bags of fresh potatoes and/or cans of green beans (if you shop at places like Aldi's or GFS, you can get BIG cans of beans - much easier to deal with than opening lots and lots of small cans!).

We will let you know in July and August what the suggested food items are. The plate shares for the summer months will go to buy needed items such as meat, fresh fruit, etc. Please be generous - we need LOTS of

donations to feed 100 people! (And if you have time to help with the actual preparation and serving that would be wonderful!)

UU MEMBERSHIP CLASS/CHAT

Are you new to the church and thinking about becoming a member? Have you been visiting for a while but still don't know what we're about or just want to know more? Are you a member who wants a refresher on Unitarian Universalism? Join us during our monthly potluck held after the service every fourth Sunday of the month. We'll have special lunch tables set up for visitors and interested members to sit with each other and our minister, Rev. Deane Oliva. This will be a time to ask questions about and learn about UU history, UU beliefs, the history of our church, and the path to membership, as well as a great way to meet people at the church. Children are welcome to eat with us, but childcare will also be provided.

Questions? Contact Lauren Talley at xgj36@hotmail.com or Dave Granholm at davegranholm@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUGGESTIONS

Many local churches are known for their involvement in major community projects. First Presbyterian, for example, is associated with Little Lambs, which provides assistance for expectant and new mothers; Grace Baptist Church operates its own food pantry; St. Anthony's runs a homeless shelter.

The Social Justice Committee wants your ideas on projects for UUCE. Perhaps we could work with students at an inner-city school or organize an annual alternative craft fair. What community project do we want people to associate with our church? What process should we use to get started?

We'd like to begin planning in September, so send your suggestions and ideas to Tina Sizemore (tina5652@yahoo.com) as soon as possible.

Thanks!

The Social Justice Committee

BROWN BAG LUNCHEON

The Rev. Charles Gipson has invited us to the Willow Pond Retreat in Oakland City on June 18th for our June Brown Bag Luncheon. The topic

will be Silence. We will leave UUCE at 11:30. Once at Willow Pond, Rev Gipson will give us a short introduction to the topic and the retreat center. We will have time for a period of silence as well as lunch. We will return between 1:30 and 2 depending on folks' commitments.

For this Brown Bag Only, please let Rev Deane know that you are planning to come and whether you would rather be a driver or a rider. Thanks.

COFFEE

Place your order for chocolate, cocoa, and coffee. Contact Chris Norrington - cnorrington@hotmail.com or call. Thanks for your continued support of this project that helps the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

SHAMANIC DRUMMING CIRCLES

The First Friday Shamanic Drumming Circle meets the first Friday of each month at 7:00- 9:00 PM at the church. All are welcome.

The Third Friday Drumming Circle meets the third Friday of each month at 7:00- 9:00 PM at the church. All are welcome.

GIFT CARDS

Do you have any gift cards that you aren't going to use? - maybe there's just a bit of money left on them, or maybe it's a store you really don't go to. If so, our church can use them! Every little bit adds up, and can really help! Thanks - the Social Justice Committee

July 2009

Service Schedule:

July 5	GA hijinks
July 12	UU Heritage
July 19	TBA
July 26	TBA

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

What's just about as popular as a New Year's Resolution? What excites you every June? It's the Summertime Plans List...This summer I'm going to....Vacations, camping weekends, swimming and boating are usually high on the list. Many of us also include summertime reading, all those good books that you have longed to read but didn't quite have time for this past winter.

In case your list isn't long enough already, here are a few suggestions to consider:

**Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black*, by Gregory H Williams. This is the 2009 One Book One Community title sponsored by the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library. It is a fascinating glimpse into race relations in Indiana in the not too distant past and it has already kicked up some lively discussion in our community. Dr. Williams will be speaking at Bosse High School on October 1 at 7:30 pm. In addition, we will have a community roundtable (which I have been asked to participate in) as well as library branch discussion groups and, hopefully, a UUCE discussion.

**The Children's Story* by James Clavell. This is a very quick read, perhaps 1/2 hour. It is my all time favorite entry into the fascinating land of critical thinking, mass media, propaganda and education. My fantasy is that everyone at UUCE reads this book, particularly the youth. For those who do not get a chance to read it this summer, I will have copies available in the fall.

**Out of the Flames: the Remarkable Story of a Fearless Scholar, a Fatal Heresy, and One of the Rarest Books in the World.* By Lawrence and

Nancy Goldstone. This biography of Michael Servetus, a legendary Unitarian Universalist forerunner, will bring the period of the Reformation into brilliant context as it follows this intriguing physician and theologian through his intriguing life and brutal death.

**The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell. This is the strangest, can't put down book I have ever read. Here is the library's description: "A Jesuit priest and linguist who leads a twenty-first century expedition to a newly discovered extraterrestrial culture returns to Earth as the mission's sole survivor, accused of heinous crimes as well as the mission's failure." BTW, it is the first of a trilogy.

**Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. From the publisher: in 1993 Greg Mortenson was an American mountain-climbing bum wandering emaciated and lost through Pakistan's Karakoram. After he was taken in and nursed back to health by the people of a Pakistani village, he promised to return one day and build them a school. From that rash, earnest promise grew one of the most incredible humanitarian campaigns of our time--Mortenson's one-man mission to counteract extremism by building schools, especially for girls, throughout the breeding ground of the Taliban.

Perhaps you have some suggestions for me and others at UUCE. I'd love to know your favorites and your thoughts on these books. Email me if you would.

---In faith, love and service,

Rev Deane

Deane Oliva
Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville
812 474-1704

SUNDAY SERVICES

July 5th - GA Hijinks - Fresh off the press, Rev Deane will describe the highlights of General Assembly in Salt Lake City, including information on the election of our newly elected denominational president and our four year study action issue, ethical eating.

July 12 - This year is the 100th anniversary of the NAACP. Did you know that a white Unitarian woman, Mary White Ovington, was one of the

founders of the NAACP? Come learn more about our UU heritage. Jan Steinmark, Lay Leader.

July 19- TBA

July 26- TBA

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

UUCE Board of Director's meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

MEDITATION

Meditation will resume in July. It is cancelled the week of July 11th and all of August.

Rev Oliva is on summer study leave or vacation most days from July 5th through August 23rd. She can be reached by cell phone 270 779 9222 or email: cogenisys@aol.com

FREE GEMSTONES

For those who missed the 6-21-09 Sunday Service. Gemstones will be available through July 5th. Please take a gemstone from the front of the sanctuary to keep with you as a reminder of your faith and your friends as you travel this summer. If you would, return the stone at our water communion service in the fall.

GIANT RECYCLING EFFORT PLANNED

Others call it a yard sale, garage sale, or rummage sale, but Unitarians call it recycling. And it's been years since we've had a combined effort to raise money by this means. Whatever one calls it, we are planning to have one on Friday & Saturday, September 11 & 12 on the grass area and parking lot of the Church.

Members and friends are urged to start putting aside items now, in anticipation of bringing them to the site of the Sale, but no sooner than August 15. If you need help, the Committee will assist in transporting your

donations from your home to the Church, where they will be stored in the Chalice House.

After discussing what will sell and what won't, the Committee has decided to refuse certain items, namely, analog TV sets, broken or non-functioning appliances, and adult clothing. Articles of clothing for children *will* be accepted.

This is our chance to raise some much-needed funds for our operating budget, to rid our homes of clutter, and to bring expressions of delight to addicted yard sale habitues.

Naturally, this effort will require strong backs and dedicated workers, in particular the week of September 6 and the two days of the Sale itself. If you are willing and able, your help will be much appreciated. A sign-up list will be circulated during Sunday services as we approach the dates of the event. Ed Howard, Chair.

KIDS FUNDRAISER FOR UUCE

The kids in our Religious Exploration class have made small decorative birdhouses - available on the table in the foyer - donations appreciated! On Sunday, July 26th they will be making another project for our August Kids' Fundraiser. We appreciate your support!

EASY FUNDRAISERS

All of us would like to donate generously to the financial running of our church, and here are two ways that won't cost you a cent! When you are preparing to search cyberspace go to www.goodsearch.com, type in the charity as "Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville" and each search generates about a penny. And when you are shopping on-line, just take one additional step - first go to www.goodshop.com, (again the charity is Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville) then click on your store and place your order - and the store will donate a percentage to our church! Now, how easy is that?

UNITED CARING SHELTER

UUCE members prepare the evening meal for the folks at the United Caring Shelter the third Friday of each month. In July our day to cook and serve is the 17th. We begin at 3:00 and are generally done by 5:30. In July we are requesting carrots, peas, egg noodles, and cream of celery

soup. Please bring your donations to church by July 15th. The third Sunday plate share will be used to purchase additional food items.

Thank you so much for your donations of green beans and potatoes in June. And remember, volunteers to help prepare and serve the food are always needed and welcome!

POTLUCK

Our monthly potluck will be on July 26 following the service. Plan to join us and gather with fellow UU's for good food and good conversation!

COFFEE

Place your order for chocolate, cocoa, and coffee. Contact Chris Norrington -cnorrington@hotmail.com or call. Thanks for your continued support of this project that helps the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

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ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

The UUCE discussion group meets the 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 8:45 AM at the Chalice House. The topic for July 5 is: What stories do humans tell to convince ourselves we have a special place in the Universe. The July 19th topic is undecided at this time.

GREETERS NEEDED

Want to contribute to the church in a meaningful way but only have, say, 20 minutes a week to spare? Perfect! Be a greeter! Greeters are those wonderful, smiling people you've noticed welcoming people at the door, passing out hymnals in the sanctuary, and straightening up chairs after the

service on Sundays. It's a fun, easy, and important job that doesn't take much time at all. Interested? See me, Lauren Talley, in church, or contact me via email (xgj36@hotmail.com) or phone. I look forward to hearing from you!

CAJE UPDATE

As noted in the Courier and Press story below CAJE continues to make an impact on Evansville. What the story doesn't tell you is that UUCE's very own Mark Rigney was one of the presenters regarding the issue of public transportation. As he told us during the Sunday program he gave at church, he has also traveled extensively seeking information on his subject.

At the CAJE meeting he told the gathering that METS had agreed that a representative of theirs would speak at the CAJE action night program. The printed program indicated the same, but no one from METS showed up. Mark gave a presentation himself.

Also, among the many, many ministers present, it was Deane who was chosen to give the closing prayer. She directed the prayer to "Spirit of Life, Spirit of Love". -Junis

CAJE LANDS \$1 MILLION FOR HOUSING

By Susan Orr staff writer for the Evansville Courier and Press

Evansville's Affordable Housing Trust Fund got a boost Thursday night when Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel pledged to commit \$1 million in city funding to the cause.

The mayor made the commitment in front of about 900 members of Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment (CAJE), a grass-roots group of 11 congregations focused on social justice issues.

The members gathered at St. Benedict Cathedral for their annual action assembly, in which CAJE presses public officials for specific commitments to address community issues.

At this year's meeting, the focus was on two issues: affordable housing and public transportation.

CAJE first considered the housing issue in 2007. The transportation issue is new for the group this year.

Evansville established a housing trust fund several years ago with \$1 million from Casino Aztar revenues. That money has been spent, CAJE officials said, and since then the trust fund has sat idle.

At the meeting, Weinzapfel promised the city will contribute \$500,000 both in 2010 and 2011 to the fund.

All of that money will be used for housing for people living at or below 50 percent of median income.

The mayor also pledged the city will work with CAJE to identify additional funding sources, with an ultimate goal of finding \$2 million per year for the trust fund; and that he would work with CAJE and Vanderburgh County officials to seek county funding for the cause.

Weinzapfel told the group the city is committed to providing more affordable housing, and he challenged those present to also do their part.

"We recognize that there's a lot more to be done, but it's not just government that can do it," the mayor said.

On CAJE's second target issue, public transportation, the meeting was not as successful.

Over the past several months, CAJE members have met with representatives from the Metropolitan Evansville Transportation System and the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization as well as elected officials, area employers and others.

But no one from METS was present at the meeting to hear CAJE press its case for improved public transportation. However, Tom Barnett, executive director of the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization, was present.

The Rev. Jay Davidson, a member of CAJE's executive committee, said he was disappointed but not discouraged that no one from METS accepted CAJE's invitation to the meeting.

Davidson reminded the crowd that CAJE had a similar experience when it first proposed a dental clinic for those in need.

The group continued to press the issue, and a dental clinic opened in 2006.

"Hang in there with us — we will succeed," Davidson told the group.

Making Coffee at UUCE

Now is the time to demythologize coffee brewing at UUCE.

UNLOCKING THE SECRET

The coffee maker is on a timer. The timer is set to AUTO for Sunday coffee making. On Sundays simply follow the steps below. For any other day of the week one must first turn the timer to ON, wait 15 (fifteen) minutes for the water to heat, and then proceed to the steps below.

MAKING COFFEE – All supplies are in the cabinet below the coffee maker.

- 1) Put clean filter in the filter basket.
- 2) Add coffee:
 - a) Decaffeinated coffee comes in packets, one packet per pot of coffee.
 - b) Caffeinated coffee is measured into filter basket – ½ cup per pot. There is a measuring spoon in the coffee canister.

Place empty coffee pot on lower

- 1) burner.
- 2) Turn burner warmer on.

3) Pour one pitcher (or one pot) of water into the top right fill spot on coffee maker.

4) Wait for coffee pot to fill.

TO FINISH –

1) Turn off burners.

2) Rinse coffee pot.

Put timer back on AUTO

August 2009

Service Schedule:

- Aug 2** Common Ground: The Katrina Trip Retrospective
- Aug 9** Is there something more?
- Aug 16** A Musical experience
- Aug 23** Formulas for Now
- Aug 30** Gateway to World Religions

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Just back from New Orleans, a fabulous trip! If you miss our August 2nd service presentation, please ask Nancy, John, Marv, Tina or myself to tell you about our experiences. Then, start thinking about our mission trip for next year!

During the summer months I will be splitting my time between study and vacationing. Study time will be devoted to reading Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh and writer, theologian, Thomas Moore, in anticipation of a Zen retreat in mid August and a ministers' convocation in November, as well as planning for the new church year. I have included in the body of this column a tentative schedule and do heartily solicit feedback. By mid August I hope to review the feedback, modify the offerings, and put together a brochure for each of us, visitors and new members, so that we will all be able to plan ahead.

Faith development is a core component of our mission. Here is a preview, with tentative dates, of the adult RE offerings for the 2009-10 year. Please note that childcare is always provided with advance notice.

The Monday Series- The Monday series works in conjunction with our Children's Religious Education focus. This year we will study The Eightfold Path. Next year this space will be reserved for the Seven Principles to accompany the RE program's emphasis on Unitarian Universalism and the third year we will explore the Ten Commandments which will accompany an RE emphasis on our Judeo Christian heritage.

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Search for Truth and Meaning- Each fall and winter UUCE will offer multi week courses on spiritual, theological, ethical development.

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Building Your Own Theology: Volume III, Ethics- Winter, 2010. "*Ethics* explores the moral implications of participants' values and beliefs, with each session featuring a different dimension of ethical decision-making: authority, motivation, responsibility, the situation, intention, relationships, values, and character." Begins Thursday January 7th.

One time events- Mark your calendar for a special one day workshop on Saturday October 31st on **Preparation as we Age – Making Choices**. Time: 10-3, lunch included.

Ongoing events- Covenant Groups – This year we will develop two covenant groups, one on the second Wednesday of the month and one on the second Friday of the month. Start dates: October 14 and 16. **Movies** – A series on Heresy has been suggested. Keep watch for dates. **Third Thursday Brown Bag Lunch** – continues. Each month we will invite a speaker to join us for lunch and discussion. Time: Noon until 1:15. Start date: September 17th. **Women's Group** – If we have enough interest, we have a new curriculum for interested folks. **Parent's Group** – Do we have interest in this type of group?

Over the summer, consider you schedules, your needs and desires. Offer comments to me at cogenisys@aol.com. Then be ready to peruse the final brochure, mark your calendars and sign up for the activities that interest you.

Have a safe, healthy summer. I'll see you at the end of August.

Blessings,

Rev. Deane Oliva
Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville
812 474-1704
Notes from COM (Committee on Ministry)

SUNDAY SERVICES

Aug 2nd - Common Ground: The Katrina Trip Retrospective - Tina Sizemore, Nancy Higgs, Marv Albin and Rev Deane will share insights and pictures from their mission trip to New Orleans.

Aug 9th- Is there something more? God talk
How we deal with spiritual quest and experience
Tom Moor Worship leader

Aug 16th - Diane Brewer will lead us in a Musical experience

Aug. 23rd Formulas for Now. John Schaeffer Worship Leader

Aug 30th - Gateway to World Religions - In the coming church year we will explore major world religions. This service suggests a comparative container for our search for truth and meaning.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

UUCE Board of Director's meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

MEDITATION

Meditation is cancelled all of August.

REVEREND OLIVIA'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

In July, Reverend Olivia was gone 1 week for the Katrina Social Justice trip. She also used 3 weeks of accrued study time in July. Reverend was available for emergencies during this time. In August she will use her final week of accrued study time and her vacation time. She will be back from her vacation on August 23rd.

During this time the Worship Committee will be conducting lay lead services, Hardin will be picking up the mail and Reverend Olivia will be checking messages herself. Reverend Claudia Ramaischi will be available for funeral services should the need arise while Reverend Olivia is on vacation.

The members of COM are available to discuss this or any other concerns you may have regarding the ministry of the church. The members of COM are Mark Rigney, our chair, Joel Haffner, Susie Feinberg

and myself, Ann Hanat, the secretary. We will handle all comments and concerns with discretion and respect, addressing each within the committee at large and keep you informed as to the outcome when possible.

Go in Peace and may your living bless the world.
Ann Marie Hanat

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED

Choir Season starts again in September. We are actively encouraging your support! The choir is a great way to give from the heart and to worship together. It is our goal to have a committed core of solid singers that really satisfy. We meet the second, third, and fourth Wednesday evenings of every month. Please sign up on the commitment sheet in the lobby.

Consider making some musical offering on a less weekly basis. We're inviting the congregation to dust off those high school band instruments or break out the guitar and contribute to centering music time during our services. Any and all forms of collaboration will be supported. Please see Sarah Moor or sign up on the commitment sheet in the lobby.

YARD SALE/ RECYCLING EFFORT PLANNED

Don't forget UUCE is holding a Giant Yard Sale/Recycling effort on September 11 & 12.

Members and friends are urged to start putting aside items now, in anticipation of bringing them to the site of the Sale, but no sooner than August 15.

Naturally, this effort will require strong backs and dedicated workers, in particular the week of September 6 and the two days of the Sale itself. If you are willing and able, your help will be much appreciated. A sign-up list will be circulated during Sunday services as we approach the dates of the event. Ed Howard, Chair.

THE OFFICIAL UUCE CALENDAR

One of the goals of the communications committee is to develop a calendar of upcoming events for the church. This calendar will include major events such as the annual meeting but will also include the many week to week or month to month events that many of our committees and groups plan. The purpose of the master calendar is to have one calendar that lets us plan more efficiently.

If you are in charge of - or know of - events that should be included in this calendar, please contact Rosi Weatherwax at waxjack@insightbb.com or call. Please include:

The event

Date and Time

Location (specific rooms if within the church)

The name and contact information for the person in charge of the event.

If you have questions about whether to include your event, give Rosi a call.

UNITED CARING SHELTER

UUCE member fix a meal for the folks at the United Caring Shelter the third Friday of each month. In August our day to cook and serve is the 21st. We begin at 3:00 and are generally done by 5:30. In August we are requesting spaghetti noodles, meat sauce, garlic bread, and salad makings. Please bring your donations to church by August 19th. The third Sunday plate share will be used to purchase additional food items.

Thank you so much for your donations in past months. And remember, volunteers to help prepare and serve the food are always needed and welcome!

POTLUCK

Our monthly potluck will be on August 23rd following the service. Plan to join us and gather with fellow UU's for good food and good conversation!

COFFEE

Place your order for chocolate, cocoa, and coffee. Contact Chris Norrington - cnorrington@hotmail.com or call.

SHAMANIC DRUMMING CIRCLES

The First Friday Shamanic Drumming Circle meets the first Friday of each month. The Third Friday Drumming Circle meets the third Friday of each month. Both meet at 7:00- 9:00 PM at the church. All are welcome.

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

The UUCE discussion group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 8:45 AM at Chalice House. The topic for August 2 is: UU theology as presented at GA. The August 16th topic is undecided at this time.

Calling all passionate people!

The latest meeting to craft UUCE's Vision Statement drew three people besides myself. I know there are many of you who feel passionately about the vision of where we want this church to be in five years. Everyone should have the opportunity to have a voice in deciding who we want to be and what we will stand for in this church, in this community, and in this world. The Vision Statement will guide our development of a Strategic Plan for UUCE.

Don't pass up the next opportunity to participate in this important discussion! On Sunday, September 27th, we will be having an informal discussion about the Vision Statement while we enjoy the delicious potluck luncheon after the service. Please mark your calendar! Rosi Weatherwax, Deane Oliva, or I will be glad to answer any questions you may have about this process. -Mary Helen Weldy

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL?

Your e-mail address is your connection to important announcements such as notices about upcoming congregational meetings? The new UUCE policy is that e-mail, rather than postcards, is the method for members receiving information about upcoming congregational meetings and other official church notices.

Do you have a current e-mail on file? Did you receive a recent e-mail announcement about the July 26th meeting? If you didn't, you either don't have an e-mail on file or your e-mail listing is not current. Please contact Rosi Weatherwax at waxjack@insightbb.com to update your listing if needed.

MONTHLY DONATIONS and PLATE SHARE

We will be collecting specific food items (check the display at church) and money on the 3rd Sunday plate share to use when we serve dinner at United Caring Shelter on Friday, August 21st from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

GENEROUS KNITTING

The December holidays will be here before you know it! This year we are knitting/crocheting 100% cotton washcloths for Matthew 25 - patterns are available on the Social Justice table in the foyer.

WORSHIP ASSOCIATES

Interested in learning more about becoming a Worship Associate? Talk to Tom Moor, John Schaeffer, or Jan Steinmark for more information. There will be a Worship Associates Retreat on Saturday, August 29th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the minister's house - perfect time to get all the help and encouragement you'd like!

KIDS' FUNDRAISERS

Thanks for purchasing hand-painted decorative birdhouses in July. Hand-decorated small picture frames will be available in August. On Sunday, August 30th, the kids will be making a new project to sell. Thanks for helping the kids help the church!

To all the members and friends of our congregation who bear witness to the expression of our beliefs through your service to Evansville and to the greater community, UUCE says "Thank you!" To UUCE members and friends who helped those whose lives were ravaged by Katrina, who speak about our beloved religious community to others who are seeking their spiritual path, who visit the sick and the lonely, who work to make CAJE successful in its quest for justice, who serve on boards and committees or otherwise participate in movements and organizations to promote a just and sustainable world, who serve a meal each month at United Caring Shelters with a smile, who participate in GA and other gatherings of UUs on a state or national level, who visit other UU churches and learn from them what might improve UUCE, who provide leadership for and/or who assist with our fundraising projects in the community, and for those who show through their graceful and joyful interactions with those outside our congregation that being a member or friend of UUCE means being motivated to think and to act, we offer our gratitude!

- Your Friends at UUCE

FALL FESTIVAL IS COMING

As summer draws to a close and we begin to think about back to school and other fall activities we mustn't forget Evansville's premier fall event- the Westside Nut Club Fall Festival! The festival runs from Monday, October 5 through Saturday, October 10. Sign-up sheets will be available the end of August for booth cleaning before the festival, cooking before the festival, working the booth during the festival, and post-festival booth cleaning!

September 2009

Service Schedule:

Sept 6 TBA

Sept 13 Water Communion

Sept 20 Gateway to World Religions- part 1

Sept 27 Gateway to World Religions- part 2

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

"Look at me! Look at me!" I often shouted when I was a little girl. I was desperate for everyone to notice my special qualities. When folks did turn my way and give me their attention, I danced, recited or otherwise showed off my talents. It was rewarding to be recognized for who I was and what I had to offer.

Right now UUCE is in a similar position. Thanks to the unfortunate flooding in May, the insurance payment has made it possible for us to re-do much of the inside structure of the building. Thus, we are in the process of painting walls, laying carpet and generally beautifying UUCE. Building and Grounds members have been a tremendous liaison for this important work. (Special thanks to Link who has been the point person.)

By early fall we hope to have the building completely ready. Our Religious Exploration Program for both adults and children is shaping up and interesting activities are planned, such as movies, Rummage Sales, parties, not to mention Fall Festival and United Caring Shelter projects.

We are just about ready to shout, "Look at me! Look at me! If you have a yearning for a liberal religious home that encourages the pursuit of a spiritual path toward truth and meaning in a loving, diverse, community; one that commits to social justice and service, and offers excellent religious educational programs, check us out. We would love to meet you."

Do let us shout it out by telling our friends, encouraging visitors to get involved and by participating ourselves in the offerings at UUCE. Together we are the change that we wish for.

In faith and service,

Rev Deane

Deane Oliva
Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville
812 474 1704

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sept 6 - TBA

September 13 - Water Communion Ingathering - You are invited to bring a small container of water representing your summer as well as our faith stones passed out in June to our ingathering. We will join our individual contributions into a community bowl. Children are encouraged to participate.

September 20 - Gateway to World Religions, Part I

September 27 - Gateway to World Religions, Part 2 The Children's RE Program will be studying World Religions this year. Our Sunday services will periodically join them in this exploration. The first two services are an introduction to the process and structure of our discussion.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

UUCE Board of Director's meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

OTHER CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Social Justice Committee meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 at the church.

The Communications Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 at the church.

The Stewardship Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 at the church.

The Worship Associates meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30. Location varies.

MEDITATION

Meditation will resume in September on the Friday after Labor Day. It is offered Mondays and Fridays at noon at UUCE and lasts approximately 40 minutes.

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

The UUCE discussion group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 8:45 AM at Chalice House.

POTLUCK

Our monthly potluck will be on September 27th following the service. Plan to join us and gather with fellow UU's for good food and good conversation!

YOU MIGHT BE A UU...

You might be a Unitarian Universalist if you know at least 5 ways to say - Happy holidays!

You might be a Unitarian Universalist if your idea of a guy's night out is going to a N.O.W. rally.

You might be a Unitarian Universalist if you refer to construction paper as "paper of color."

If you find yourself rewriting a church survey, rather than taking it, you might be a UU.

You might be a Unitarian Universalist if you think a holy day of obligation is your turn to do coffee.

You might be a UU if you get mail from committees you didn't know you were on.

You might be a UU if you know at least two people who are upset that trees had to die for your church to be built.

SIGN UP TO HELP MAKE THE UUCE FALL FESTIVAL BOOTH A SUCCESS!

Summer is drawing to a close and it's time to think about the Westside Nut Club Fall Festival! The festival runs from Monday, October 5 through Saturday, October 10.

There are a number of ways you can help:

- Help clean the booth before the festival (Saturday, October 3 at 1:00)
- Come to the church on the 20th to help cook chicken
- Bake chocolate chip cookies
- Work at the booth during the festival
- Help clean up the booth after the festival (Sunday, October 11 after church)

Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer for booth cleaning before the festival, cooking chicken, baking cookies, working the booth, and post-festival booth cleaning!

CALLING ALL CHICKEN COOKERS & CUTTERS

On Sunday, September 20 following the service we will cook chicken for the fall festival. We need about a dozen people who are willing to cut and cook chicken. If you have them please bring electric skillets, sharp knives, and cutting boards. Sign up in the foyer.

COOKIE COOKS NEEDED

We will be selling chocolate chip cookies at the fall festival booth again this year. Please see Teri Rawlings if you can help bake!

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED

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Naturally, this effort will require strong backs and dedicated workers, in particular the week of September 6 and the two days of the Sale itself. If you are willing and able, your help will be much appreciated.

HOLD YOUR HORSES... OR DONATIONS!

While there is plenty of room in the basement of the Chalice House in which to store donations scheduled to be sold at the Sept. 10-11 Rummage Sale, the steps one must negotiate there pose a hazard. We have elected instead to store donations in the Food Booth, where space is limited and which will soon be filled to capacity.

To avoid turning away donations when we reach that point, we are asking you to hold onto your rummage until September 8th or 9th, when we will have tables set up in the Church proper on which to receive, sort and price everything. Thanks for your cooperation.

Ed Howard, Chair

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Do you have a current e-mail on file with UUCE? You can tell we have your current email if you have been getting the weekly church news updates. If you don't please contact Rosi Weatherwax at waxjack@insightbb.com to update your listing if needed.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE

Almost every member of UUCE is now receiving the monthly newsletter electronically. This helps with our tight budget on both printing and mailing costs.

If you are still receiving a hard copy and have computer access, please let Rosi Weatherwax know that you would like to receive an electronic copy. You can contact her at waxjack@insightbb.com

SHAMANIC DRUMMING CIRCLES

The First Friday Shamanic Drumming Circle meets the first Friday of each month. The Third Friday Drumming Circle meets the third Friday of each month. Both meet at 7:00- 9:00 PM at the church. All are welcome.

Thanks to George Klinger who willingly and dutifully has labeled and distributed the hard copy newsletters for many years. Our move to an electronic newsletter has allowed him to close down his mail shop!