

MARCH 2012

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

The Caring of the Green

WORDS ON DILIGENT STEWARDSHIP

During the past three years the UUCE Canvass Committee has intentionally focused on embarking on a journey toward becoming a congregation of more generous people. Wayne Clark, author of *Beyond Fundraising: A Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship* (2007), also serves as the UUA Director of Congregational Stewardship. Many of his thoughts coincide with conversations and goals discussed by the Canvass Committee.

"We need to replace [the old tapes of scarcity] with positive, more accurate statements of abundance, such as 'Our congregation has a clear mission, we are publicly passionate about that mission, and we will secure enough resources (people, time and money) to successfully implement our mission.' A congregation with a culture of abundance believes in reality that there can always be enough. They believe that diligent stewardship will provide everything needed."

"Focusing on abundance requires a new vocabulary, one

that emphasizes the reality of abundance by diminishing our focus on money. This vocabulary puts fundraising under the umbrella of stewardship. Rather than discussing the goal of raising money, congregations should discuss money as no more than a means to an end. Money is most meaningful when we can move from thinking of it as a way to pay the bills and regard it as a way to fulfill the ministry of the congregation."

The UUCE Annual Canvass provides us with an opportunity to examine our individual roles in realizing our church's mission and vision. Pledging generously is an opportunity for you to participate in the stewardship of our church community.

So what is a "generous" pledge? The UUA and the UUCE define a generous pledge as 3% of the gross income of the pledging unit before taxes. No committee member will call on you to discuss your pledge; you decide whether you can be a "generous" giver (or possibly work toward that goal next year). Pledge packets will be distributed on March 4. If you cannot be in church that day, your packet will be mailed to you

right away, or you can fill out the form online. Please bring your completed pledge form to the service on March 11, or mail it in the envelope provided.

On March 11, in appreciation for your prompt response, the Canvass Committee will put returned envelopes in a special drawing. Prizes, all donated for the occasion, include: homemade cookies, \$50 gift certificate for Villa Verone, Fannie May Chocolates, \$25 scrip card for Starbuck's and Barnes & Noble, two loaves of Great Harvest Bread, homemade bundt cake, and homemade muffins. Everyone attending the March 11 church service is invited to the free lunch afterwards.

In closing, consider this quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee."

—Tim Davis
Canvass Chair

Wayne Clark has been the UUA Director of Congregational Stewardship Services since 1998. He has presented more than 50 General Assembly workshops and several dozen district-wide keynote addresses.

From the Minister

We are
A religious community.
We gather
To support each other
In our search for truth
Our quest for meaning
Our desire for justice
In the face of loss
And joy.

We are fallible people
In a flawed world
Working through an imperfect community
To make the world a better place
CROP: Walk, Village Bank, Religious Education for
all ages, Pantry Sunday, wind energy, green tags,
highway cleanups, battery and CFL recycling,
print cartridges recycling, book groups, and fair
trade products.
Farmers markets, Buddhist group, giving tree,
community gardens, and choirs.

For 146 years
we have been a voice
for compassion, justice, and freedom.
This has made a difference in the lives of our
members and the wider community.
This has made a difference in the past and will
continue to do so into the future.
We are the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin
And tomorrow we will be needed
To challenge intolerance
To companion with each other
To be a voice for sustainable living
To strengthen the interdependent web
To keep our principles alive.
Your generous financial support is essential.
Canvass week is March 4 - 11.
Consider making a fair share pledge of 3% of
your gross income.
You will make a difference.

—Dan

A Month of Sundays

3/4: CANVASS SUNDAY

We kick off our annual canvass with a spirit
filled service full of music and good news.
Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

3/11: UUCE HISTORY CHAPTER 4: THE 60S

Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

3/18: THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY GAME: SILVER EDITION

Test your knowledge of UU history and
perhaps win a fabulous prize. Service led by
the Rev. Dan Brosier.

3/25: ALL-MUSIC SUNDAY

Twice a year we devote a service to
celebrating the music of this church. As usual
we have a full line-up of members willing to
share their musical gifts with us. Service led
by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

All services begin at 10:45

Declaring

What to Read

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30
on Monday, March 26, at the home of Alice
Macy to discuss "[Invisible Man](#)" by Ralph
Ellison. On April 30 the group will meet at the
home of Sandy Webster to discuss "[Extremely
Loud & Incredibly Close](#)" by Jonathan Safran
Foer. For further information contact [Alice
Macy](#).

On Friday, March 16 at 7:00, the UUCE
evening book club will meet at the Panera
Bread located at 2484 N. Randall Road, Elgin,
IL 60123. Tel: 847/426-7000. The March
selection is "[The Namesake](#)" by Jhumpa
Lahiri.

March Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in room 301

All Music Sunday

March 25

Bells Practice

Sundays at 12:30 in the bell room

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 21 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

March 26 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

March 16 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Canvass Kick-Off Luncheon

March 11 at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Care Team Meeting

March 27 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Committee on the Ministry

March 7 at 7:00

Covenant Group

March 6 and 20 at 7:00 (off site)

Executive Team

March 7 and 21 at 1:00

Farmers' Market

March 25 at noon

Finance Committee

March 14 at 7:00

Improv Group

Sundays at 7:30 in room 301

OWL Classes

March 2 at 6:00 and March 3 at noon in the Fellowship Hall and rooms 301 and 302

qUUILting

March 3 at 9:00 in room 302

Social Justice Committee

March 28 at 7:00

Unichord deadline

March 18

Western Crescent Ministers' Meeting

March 21 at 11:00 in room 301

The Peering of the Keys

Once again the church is lucky enough to pair an All-Music Sunday morning and a Farmers' Market in the afternoon. Tune in on March 25 for a delectable combination of music, food and fellowship. Sweet!



Death is Almost Over With

Please join us for the last five weeks of the adult religious exploration class, *The Sociology of Death*, which meets from 9:00 - 10:30 on Sunday mornings in Room 301. Each session includes an introductory presentation and/or reading, followed by a facilitated discussion. Upcoming topics are:

March 4 - The death socialization of children, including death themes in children's stories & games, and the involvement of children in funerary ritual

March 11 - The social stigma attached to those dead, dying and bereaved

March 18 - Hospice, with guest speaker **Elise Wall**,

UUCE member & Volunteer Coordinator for Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice

March 25 - Advance Directives (Healthcare Power of Attorney, DNRs, Living Wills), with guest speaker Brett Anderson, a local attorney & UUCE member

April 1 - Euthanasia, assisted suicide, mercy killing and the right to die

From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION AND EDUCATION

Our Adult Spirituality program continues to offer the Sociology of Death class, which meets on Sundays at 9:00 on the third floor.

The Religious Exploration and Education (REE) Team is coordinating our participation in Feed My Starving Children. This organization has a site in Schaumburg where volunteers help pack food that goes to children all over the world. We have room for 25 individuals to pack food on June 2, from 9:00 - 11:00. Families are encouraged to volunteer, since children as young as 5 years can do so! Each REE class will be holding a bake sale to raise money to contribute as well. If you wish to contribute baked goods, please wrap them individually to be sold for \$.50-\$1. Feel free to check out their website at www.fmcs.org.

Some of our 7th-9th grade youth are now participating in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program. This is a very comprehensive program that requires a big commitment: we run 4 to 5 90-minute sessions one weekend a month! I am so thankful for our volunteer facilitators, Mila Brinker and Kevin Sweeney. And I'm sure the parents are too!

For our youngest participants, here's what is happening in their religious exploration and education classes this month:

MARCH 4

Preschool: People of All Colors Are Important

K-2: Hinduism: Lighting a Lamp

3-5: Fun Day – the youth will choose an activity or outing

6-8: Unitarian Universalism: Famous Folks in History

High School: Buddhism-Waking Up

MARCH 11

Preschool: Our Bodies Are Beautiful

K-2: Hinduism: Lights For Gita

3-5: Hindu New Year Celebration

6-8: Unitarian Universalism: I Believe Speech

High School: Buddhism-Right Living

MARCH 18

Preschool: We Begin Life

K-2: Islam: The 100th Name

3-5: No Ruz

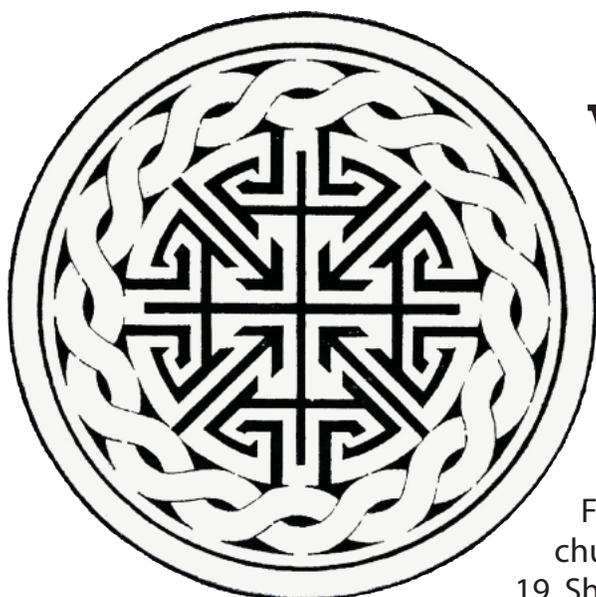
6-8: Introduction to Paganism

High School: Christianity

MARCH 25

Music Sunday – No Classes

In Faith,
—Kathy



Wheel of Life

Edythe Nagler, member of the church for 37 years, died on February 7. She was 88 years old. Most members of the congregation did not know of her life of scholarship; upon completion of her masters degree from Syracuse University, she taught at the University of Vermont, Milwaukee Downer College, and Elgin Community College. What most congregants remember is Edie's consistently warm welcome to all who came to our door. For many, her friendly spirit helped them decide to join the church. Her memorial service was held on Sunday, February 19. She is missed.

President's Reflections

More from Wayne Clark on the importance of stewardship and generous giving:

"Healthy faith communities see stewardship as a vital component of ministry. They understand that stewardship is an act of worship. Worship includes the joyful sharing of gifts (aptitude, ability, and money), call (willingness to proclaim the congregation's spiritual message), and spiritual vocation (willingness to take up volunteer efforts to support the faith community). Note that gifts have a wider meaning than



money exchanged for programs and ministries of a faith community. For example, one's gift to the faith community might be to serve on the finance committee because one has a good understanding of financial matters.

Or a member with landscaping ability might agree to become caretaker of the memorial garden. All kinds of gifts should be valued and considered meaningful.

Stewardship, then, is the growing, nurturing,

promoting, and building of gifts, calls, and spiritual vocation of the members of a faith community. Stewardship is not necessarily the things people do, but the spirit that influences the things they do."

—Tim

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

18 January 2012

Present: Beth Cooper-Zobott, Betsy Thrasher, David Clough, Deb Caruso, Jane Kimball (representing the Executive Team), Stephen Day.

Reports

—Budget Report approved by consensus; reason for \$60 refund in the Church Rental Income is not known.

—Monitoring Report on Compensation and Budgeting: II E and F: The UUA website was

checked for recommendations for position compensations. The new information has not been posted yet.

Unfinished Business

No updates.

New Business

—The Executive Team (ET) Self-Assessment regarding Communication and Support of the Board. Evaluation results indicate that the ET is in compliance with each of these items.

Meet Bill Schulz in Person Next Month

“Leadership Development with a UU Core” will be the theme of the 2012 Central Midwest District Assembly on April 27-29 at the Marriott Oak Brook Hills Resort. Plenty of activities are planned for the weekend.

Rev. Dr. Bill Schulz, president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and past president of the UUA, will speak at the opening ceremony on Friday night.

On Saturday morning, a worship service will be followed by the Annual Business meeting. Rev. Marilyn Sewell will then present the keynote address. Dr. Sewell is a well-known UU minister, writer, activist, and spiritual leader. Upon her retirement in 2009, she was named Minister Emerita for her 17 years of service as the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon.

There will be two sessions of workshops on Saturday afternoon and a lively worship service sponsored by the District’s Young Adult Steering Committee. After dinner, conference attendees will be invited to a screening of Rev. Sewell’s documentary film, “Raw Faith.”

The winner of the District Assembly Sermon Contest will lead a worship service Sunday morning. There will be lots of music throughout the weekend, opportunities to connect with old friends and meet new ones, and times for spiritual reflection. Save the dates on your calendar now!

Kudos

A great big thank you to Betsy Thrasher, Susan Anderson, Ashley & Zack LaMotte, Valerie Howells, Roberta Nauman, Tim & Elizabeth Closson, Debbie Caruso, Norm Wilkinson, and Kathy Hislip and youth Kyle, Savannah, Moter, and Rob for helping with hospitality the last few weeks.

Special thanks go out to everyone who helped out with greeting and making sure the church was in good shape for Edythe’s memorial service.

Greeters, coffee makers, and cleaner uppers are always welcomed with gratitude; just call Church Administrator Mila Brinker at 847.888.0668.



Enneagram Class Canceled

From the Greek word “ennea” meaning “nine,” enneagram is defined as “a system of spiritual psychology based on an ancient Sufi typology of nine personality types or primary roles with the recognition of one’s type tantamount to a spiritual awakening.”

This Adult Religious Exploration Class has been canceled, but all is not lost. Enneagram is still in the world, waiting to be discovered by nosy Unitarian Universalists who ask lots of questions. Contact [Bob Sandidge](#) or [Anne Ward](#).



Start Carrying Quarters

The Religious Exploration and Education (REE) Team is sponsoring an all-ages social action project dealing with world hunger. On Saturday, June 2, we will send a 25-member team to participate in a food packing event at Feed My Starving Children (www.fmssc.org) in Schaumburg. To defray costs, the REE classes will be holding bake sales and collecting quarters. Each quarter will pay for one child's meal! Anyone age 5 or older can volunteer at the packing. Let us know if you are interested and available to help on Saturday, June 2, from 9 to 11 am, by sending an email to Vickie Kilgore at vkilgore@gmail.com.

Why Are We Doing All This?

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin has a specific **Mission and Vision**—a *raison d'être*. Visitors to the church, and members who tend to throw away the instructions and boldly go, may not know that part of our Vision is as follows:

Freedom of Belief and Spiritual Inquiry: Free from the constraints of creed and dogma, and bound by the values expressed in our seven Unitarian Universalist principles, each one of us is called to engage in spiritual inquiry. Unique paths to truth and meaning are supported through life-span religious exploration, worship, and celebration. We honor many sources of spiritual practice from around the world and throughout history, sharing our spiritual paths with one another. We reach out to the larger community as a voice of religious freedom.

Service Auction Results

- Gross receipts, \$13,580
- Expenses, \$1,217
- Net revenue, \$12,363

The Service Auction is part of the church's annual fiscal plan. This event supplements member pledges and other fundraising events, so that we may continue to live in religious freedom, engage in social justice, and build a diverse community. May the circle be unbroken.



Church member Bud Geister turned 95 last month! He has been a member of the UUCE for 90 of these years. We love you, Bud!

And Happy Birthday to...the Bearers of the Genes

3	Jackie Van De Warker	9	Olivia Grace Husseini	22	Carey Schug
3	Ethan Engel	10	Mila Brinker	23	Jim Howells
5	Trisha Dean	13	Sara Haase	24	Diana March
5	Bridget Lucas	15	Joe Cusimano	28	Cassandra Howells
6	Sharon Fincher	16	Pat Pecho	30	Suzanne Hanifl
7	Sandy Webster	19	Carol Ovelmen	30	Dan Kalkbrenner
8	Robin Peterson	19	Christina Conway	31	Olivia Abdur-Raffia
8	Amy Hill	21	Sherman Ovelmen	31	Sarah Seiberlich

Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

www.uuce.org

E-MAIL

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administrator@uuce.org

newsletter@uuce.org

PHONE

847-888-0668

PHYSICAL LOCATION

39W830 Highland Avenue

three miles west of Randall Rd.

POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032

Elgin, IL 60121

The Sharing of the Beans



Pinto beans, that is. Along with this classic, All People's Inter-Faith Pantry is back to needing the old standbys of cereal (no oatmeal), jelly, peanut butter, juice, canned meats, and canned spaghetti.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, **March 4**, but, as always, your contributions are welcome at any time during the month.

Yes, you just gave 3% of your gross income to support the church. What the heck, you might as well buy a can of beans, too, to support the next person.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

