



MARCH 2014

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Stewardship Campaign Kicks Off March 2

OUR COMMON COMMITMENT

March 2, 2014, is Stewardship Sunday. It is the 148th Stewardship Campaign at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin. Since 1866, members of the UUCE have generously provided the financial resources to put into action our shared mission and vision: "We are a welcoming, spiritual community where people gather to find their own paths to truth and meaning. We embrace freedom of belief, engage in lifelong learning, and advocate for environmental sustainability and social justice."

As outlined in the Stewardship video shown on February 9, your generous, heartfelt pledge will provide support for our common commitment: our commitment to our interim minister's second year, increases for our staff, a bookkeeper and more. We will need a significant increase in pledge income to achieve these goals. The Stewardship Committee is asking members to strive to

meet or exceed the UUA suggested goal of 3% of gross income.

UUCE members and friends who attend the church service on March 2 will receive Stewardship Campaign materials. Those who are unable to attend will have materials mailed to them right away. The form can also be completed [online](#). Please bring your completed pledge form to the service on March 9, or mail it in the envelope provided.

FABULOUS PRIZES

During the Commitment Sunday service on March 9, members may return completed pledge forms. As soon as all forms are collected, the Stewardship Committee will thank these Early Birds by hosting a drawing for Fabulous Prizes. Each form serves as an entry. A completely unbiased official, probably a late model human, will draw forms at random and announce the winners.

The Fabulous Prizes, all of which were donated for the occasion, include:

- Lizzie's Peep Show Eggs
- Photo Cards
- Mary Alice's Marvelous Muffins
- Starbucks and Panera gift cards
- A Café Roma dining certificate
- Apple Cider soap
- Liz's Luscious Rum Cake
- A copy of "[The Green Year](#)" by Jodi Helmer

After the service, members and friends are invited to the Commitment Sunday luncheon.

I CAN SEE A NEW DAY...

Through our common commitment, we can find the economic resources to sustain and grow our beloved community. Let's wake up to a new day dawning!

UUCE Stewardship Committee:

Tim Closson (Chair),
Alice Macy, **Joe Masonick**,
Reverend Lise Adams,
Liz King, **Stephen Day**,
and **Tim Davis**

Lise's Letter



We have been co-ministering together for six months now! In other words, one quarter of our time together has passed. This also means that the Board and I have completed

the first interim ministry review for the UUA. This review consists of a variety of questions about how we have been completing the five basic interim ministry tasks that all interim ministries focus on (recognizing your history, focusing on a new identity, leadership development, rethinking denominational connections, and moving into the future with a new vision) as well as the things you decided you wanted to focus on last spring (shaping your future relationship with Rev. Dan, work towards resolving conflicting feelings around growth, financial matters, continuing dynamic worship, and focusing on community visibility). We've done at least a little bit in all of these areas, with the focus on the future so far receiving the least attention while your history has received the most, which is appropriate one quarter of the way into our process together. Your leadership and I have also put a lot of energy into how you govern yourselves, the balance between staff and volunteer responsibilities, opened up the conversation about growth, and tried to be transparent and communicative about all of this as well as the other areas we've been working on. The six month review by both me and your leadership shows that roughly 85% of us (who participated in the review) are in agreement as to our progress so far. This is good news: It shows that we have a

shared understanding about what we've done and where we still need to go.

If you'd like to know more of the specifics about this review, please feel free to ask your Board members, your [Transition Team](#), or me. One thing that has become clear to us through this process is that folks would like us to be even more transparent about what we're working on and the directions we are going. Sometimes this can be challenging as everything is interconnected and we can't always anticipate the domino effect that one small thought or adjustment may have. I'd also like to remind you to keep reading your [Unichord](#) (perhaps review [back issues](#) on the UUCE web page), Sunday announcements and emails from the church, and to make use of your Board and Transition Team members after Sunday services—they are there and willing to answer questions about UUCE. There is also a Transition bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We have some more ideas of how to communicate with you, so please keep alert and willing to engage in the many ways we interact with one another.

Finally, I want to let you all know how much I have enjoyed this first six months with you all. UUCE is a wonderful congregation with many blessings and talents. You are a generous and caring community and you do your best to live out our Unitarian Universalist values. I continue to be excited about our interim ministry and your future; with your hard work and commitment, your future can only be blessed.

Love,
—Lise

Reverend Lise Adams Sherry,
Interim Minister

A Month of Sundays

March

3/2: Blessings of the Present, Dreams for Your Future

This Sunday we'll ask you to engage in how you'd like to financially commit to UUCE's future. How will you make manifest the blessings you have at UUCE with others, both within and beyond your religious community? Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry.

3/9: Our Common Commitment

Previously known as UUCE's Commitment Sunday, this is the time of year we commit to our financial pledges for the next year. It's an important day. We'll mark it with celebration in song, readings, and Fabulous Prizes during the worship service, and afterwards, with lunch for all. Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry.

3/16: An Intentional Journey

It is said that 'Life is what happens to you while you are planning something else.' I suggest that by NOT planning, we take an even bigger risk with life. Service led by Elizabeth Closson.

3/23: Earth Stewardship

UUCE has a wonderful commitment to the Earth and all her creatures. As a community, how can we renew our pledge to maintaining a sustainable lifeboat for all? Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry.

3/30: Music Sunday

It's once again that time of year when we celebrate and worship with music. If you'd like to share your talents (all skill levels are welcome) please contact [Tim Closson](#) or [Rev. Lise](#). We will also have a special offering to benefit our music ministry. Service led by Tim Closson.

Sunday services begin at 10:45

Market Theme is Sustainability

UUCE is hosting another farmers' market and artisan fair! On March 30, this indoor event will feature handmade creations by artisans from our church community and **sustainably-produced** food and goods from local farmers.

The market will open exclusively for the congregation from noon to 1:00. We'll welcome the public from 1:00 to 3:00. Sales are usually by cash or check.

Please help promote the market by telling friends and family and by posting flyers at work, school, the library, the gym, your favorite café, etc. Thanks!

Feel free to contact market organizers [Jen Day](#) and [Mary Alice Masonick](#).



Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



Adult Spirituality continues this month at 9:00 in room 301. Rev. Lise will be facilitating a four-week program beginning March 2. Look for further details in the order of service and on the e-list.

The Coming of Age group continues to raise money during the year for a trip to our roots in Boston this summer. They will be selling candy and apples during Fellowship Hour each Sunday. Stop by for a snack to go!

For those of you who are curious as to what the Coming of Age group is all about: they will be meeting twice monthly to learn about Unitarian Universalism, spiritual practices, leadership, elements of worship, and to write their own credo statements. They have certain requirements that they must accomplish in each of these areas.

The youth also meet with a mentor to share what they're learning, get feedback on their thoughts and experiences, and develop a relationship with an adult from the congregation. It is a big commitment for the youth and the mentors. On top of all of this, they will be fundraising to help pay for a trip to Boston to visit historic UU sites. Show your support by chatting with a youth for a few minutes about the program, and by donating financially to their efforts.

Also this month, we will be having a family movie event on March 16 in room 302. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Look for further details in the order of service and on the e-list.

In Faith,

—Kathy Underwood

Director of Religious Exploration and Education

	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	High School
Mar. 2	My World Has Fish	Psalm 23	Building: Jell-O	Thinking of God	On a Lighter Note
	Family Movie at 12:30				
Mar. 9	My World Has Birds	The Everything Seed	Building: Frank Lloyd Wright	Out of Nothing	On a Lighter Note Part 2
	Coming of Age from 12:30–1:30				
Mar. 16	My World Has Water	Spring Equinox	Building: Frank Lloyd Wright Part 2	Thinking of Death	Faith For the Journey
	Discussion: Behind the Kitchen Door from 12:30–1:30				
Mar. 23	My World Has Air	Granddad's Prayers For the Earth	Building: A Visitor	Stuff Happens	Faith For the Journey Part 2
	Coming of Age from 12:30–1:30				
Mar. 30	Music Sunday – no classes				

President's Reflections

As I write this, we are traveling from Illinois to Yellowstone National Park and have just crossed the border between South Dakota and Wyoming. I have watched the scenery change from flat prairie land to flat nothing to the Badlands and now to beginning mountain ranges. It does not look like Yellowstone's bubbling mountainous landscape yet, and I am getting impatient. We are on our third day in the car.

It strikes me that our church transition process is like this trip I'm on; we've been "traveling" for several months now and things don't look like we've arrived. By the same token, "we're not in Kansas anymore."

I've been privileged to be a participant in one of the Transition Covenant Groups that have been meeting for several weeks. There we have discussed the

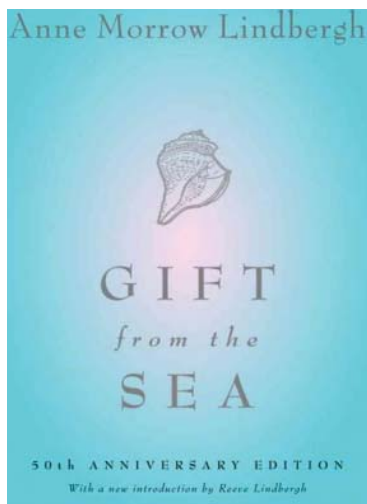
process for any transition, which includes an ending, which leads to chaos and distress, which leads to a beginning. Just as my trip to Yellowstone is not complete, is frustrating and also full of beauty, our UUCE trip is currently 'in between.' But now my analogy falls apart, because my trip has a fully defined destination, whereas UUCE is still grappling with exactly where we are going.

In the coming weeks you will hear more from the Board of Trustees about UUCE's mission and vision, and how that will help determine our direction. Please be thinking about what YOU think the church should be, and do. The leadership will be seeking your input.

—Elizabeth Closson
President,
UUCE Board of Trustees

UUs Explore the Human Experience

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on March 24 at the home of Betsy Thrasher to discuss "[Gift From the Sea](#)" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Lindbergh shares her meditations on youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude and contentment as she set them down during a brief vacation by

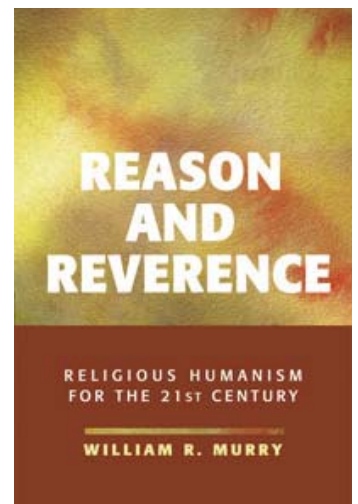


the sea. Drawing inspiration from the shells on the shore, Lindbergh's musings on the shape of a woman's life bring new understanding to both women and men.

On April 28 the group will meet to

discuss "[Sweet Tooth](#)" by Ian McEwan. For more information contact [Alice Macy](#).

Beginning March 2, Rev. Lise will be facilitating a four-week program on **UU Humanism**. She will use the book "[Reason and Reverence: Religious Humanism for the 21st Century](#)" by William Murry as the basis, but the class will explore other avenues of humanism as well. Besides Amazon, the book is available at the [UUA Bookstore](#). Adult Spirituality meets on Sundays at 9:00 in room 301.



March Calendar

Worship Services

Sundays at 10:45

Adult Spirituality

Sundays at 9:00
in rooms 301 and 302

Barn Bells

Sundays at 9:45
in the Bell Room

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 19 at 7:00

Evening Book Club

March 28—offsite

Afternoon Book Group

March 24 at 12:30
offsite

CHURCH RENTAL

March 2 from 1:00—5:00

Coming of Age

March 9 and 23
in room 301
from 12:30—1:30

Executive Team

March 12 and 26 at 11:00

Farmers' Market

March 30

Green Sanctuary Meeting

March 16 at 12:20

Labyrinth Committee

March 9 at 12:30
in room 302

Memorial Service for Bud Geister

March 15

Pagan Unity— Ostara Ritual and Potluck

March 23 from 5:00—9:00

qUilters

March 1, 9:00 - 12:00 in
room 302

Happy Birthday!

3	Jackie Van De Warker	8	Amy Hill	22	Carey Schug
3	Ethan Engel	9	Olivia Grace Hussein	23	Jim Howells
5	Trisha Dean	10	Mila Brinker	24	Diana March
6	Sharon Fincher	15	Joe Cusimano	28	Cassandra Howells
6	Sharon Fincher	16	Pat Pecho	30	Suzanne Hanif
7	Sandy Webster	19	Carol Ovelmen	30	Dan Kalkbrenner
8	Robin Peterson	21	Sherman Ovelmen	31	Olivia Abdur-Raffa

Come Sit at the Welcome Table

Your friendly Transition Team now has a whole Table in the fellowship hall. After each Sunday service, a Transition Team member will be at the Table for conversations about the church's transition and other relevant topics.

Please stop by, sit down, put up your feet and join the conversation. We even have markers and paper for you to make comments, ask questions, draw pictures, or doodle to your heart's desire.

You'll find us near the entrance to the fellowship hall. We're looking forward to our time together!



—Your Transition Team,

**Ann Kremer, Elizabeth Olson, Kathy Hislip,
Michelle Sweeney, and Mike Moutrie**

T-Team Presents Updated Road Map

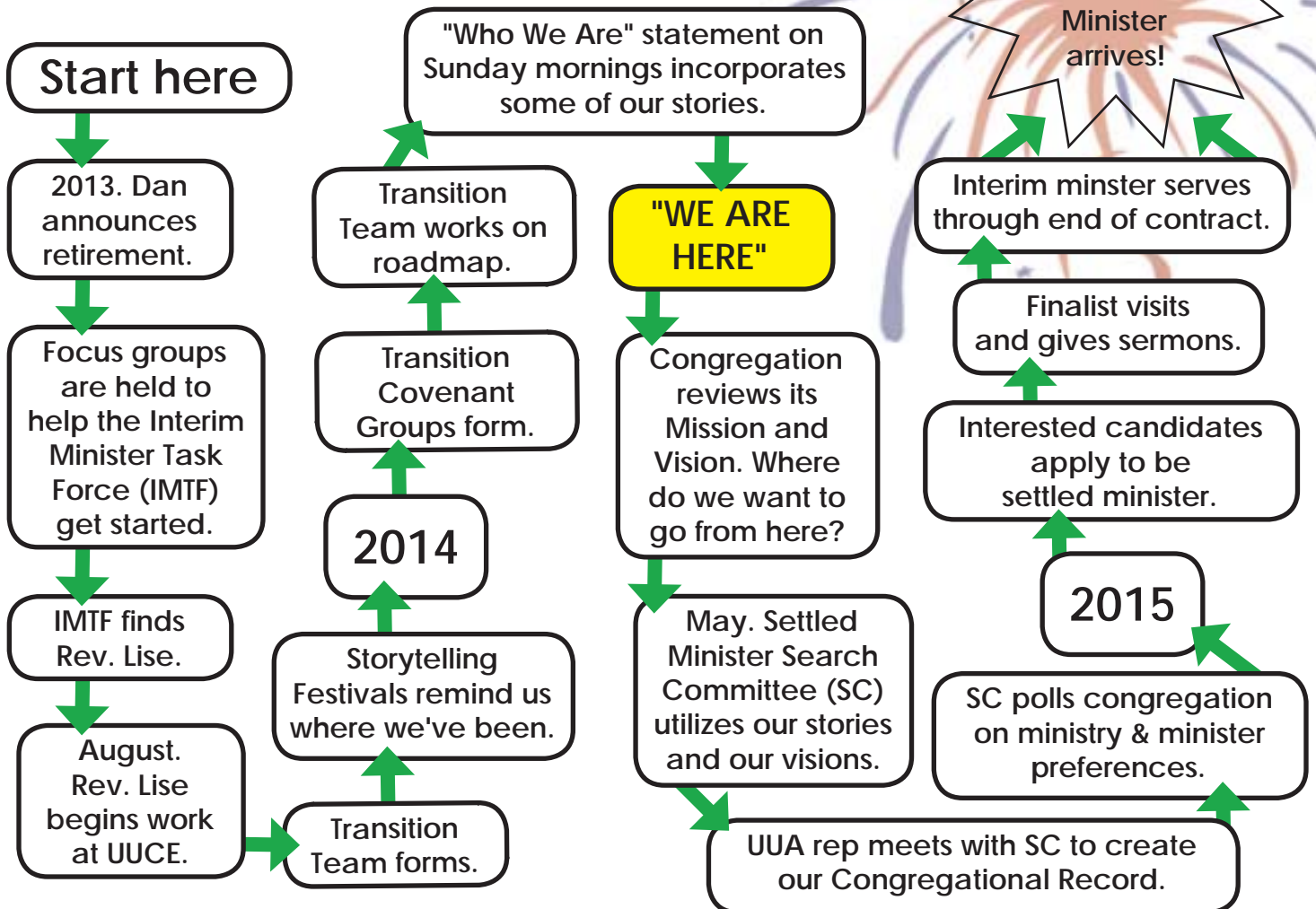
The Transition Team's (TT) initial vision of creating a transition road map was to combine ①the general transition structure provided by the UUA with ②the detailed responses from the church's focus group inputs. This proved to be more complicated than expected, especially when trying to present it in a simplified, graphical way. The roadmap may be seen in three ways. The "ten thousand feet" level, created by *Unichord* editor **Donna Askins**, is shown below.

The TT designed the table on page 8. This map **zooms in a bit closer**. It summarizes the activities already completed, and those still ahead. The final map, like a map at street level, is being created. It will show a detailed synthesis of the ①UUA's structural focus areas with ②UUCE's focus group findings. When it is ready, it will serve as a reference and guide for congregational activities in upcoming months.

These activities will be sponsored by the Board

of Trustees. They will focus on reviewing our Mission and Vision together as a congregation as we move closer to beginning the search for a settled minister. **The TT is interested in questions and feedback!** Please contact any members of the Transition Team directly, or stop by the Transition Team Table (TTT) after any Sunday service.

In faith,
The Transition Team



Transition Road Map: Medium Zoom

The diagram on page 7 is a very rough map of the transition level. It is like a road map which shows the highway, but doesn't zoom in close enough to see counties or cities. This map, designed by the Transition Team in the form of a table, takes a closer look. The T-Team is in the very difficult process of creating the most detailed map of all.

Feedback is strongly desired. Please stop by the Transition Team Table (TTT), any Sunday after church, in the Fellowship Hall. Or, email [Ann](#), [Elizabeth](#), [Kathy](#), [Michelle](#), or [Mike](#).

Years → ↓ Months	2013	2014	2015
Jan	Dan announced upcoming retirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition process refined Interim Ministry Progress Report completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister's Packets begin to arrive from interested candidates
Feb		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition Covenant groups Roadmap Timeline published 'Who We Are' portion of some services based on History Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC members review packets and conduct phone interviews
Mar	Focus groups' feedback informed plan for Interim Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission & Vision review guides UUCE future & search for Settled Minister (SM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC performs final search activities
Apr	Interim Minister Task Force (IMTF) formed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congregation provides input to BoT & T-Team via activities such as meetings and focus groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neutral pulpits *2 Candidate week *3
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMTF Interviews candidates and makes recommendation to Board of Trustees (BoT) BoT hires Interim Minister (IM) 	Establish settled minister Search Committee (SC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Minister continues Ministry and Pastoral Care through end of contract
Jun	Lise Adams Sherry hired as Interim Minister (IM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) from UUA engages with SC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goodbye party (T-Team)
Jul		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC creates Congregational Record (CR) *1 	
Aug	Interim minister arrives		
Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Ministry begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search Committee (SC) polls congregation regarding ministerial preferences 	Settled Minister arrives
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UUCE gets to know IM Transition Team (T-Team) formed & begins to meet 		
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History workshops held ("Sharing Our Stories") 	CR Completed	
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T-Team reps available for post-service discussions 		

Terms & Definitions

***1 Congregational Record (CR):** A UUA online document that the every church must complete prior to beginning the search for a settled minister. It includes detailed information about all aspects of the church: size, committees, lay leadership, ministry, finances, etc., to inform potential candidates. Only candidates and UUA staff may view the CR.

***2 Neutral Pulpits:** Churches where neither UUCE members nor the candidate is known.

***3 Candidate Week:** The final candidate visits UUCE and provides the sermon on two consecutive Sundays

New Books Are Here ... Others Are MIA

A totally new selection of books is now available on the book cart in Fellowship Hall.

After the "3 Books for a Buck" sale, books remaining on the cart were given to the Gail Borden Library District. No one knew how many years some of those titles had been on our cart! Before restocking the empty shelves, it seemed important to make sure that didn't happen again. There is now a quick and simple method to note

when a book is put on the cart and when it's time to remove it: The small blue dot on each book spine shows that book was put on the cart during the first quarter of the calendar year.

Small private libraries such as ours often have difficulties with monitoring circulation. Not all patrons return borrowed items in a timely fashion. Library staff members, whether paid or volunteer, hesitate to admonish members and special friends. Another problem

is the rising cost of books and supplies. Since its inception, UUCE's library has never increased the amount charged for overdue material. The powers that be have decided that it's time to do so. Please consider this official notification that the fine for overdue books is now doubled.*

Please return borrowed material promptly. The number of titles missing since at least 2012 is making the book police edgy.

*Of course, zero times two is zero. But please return these books!

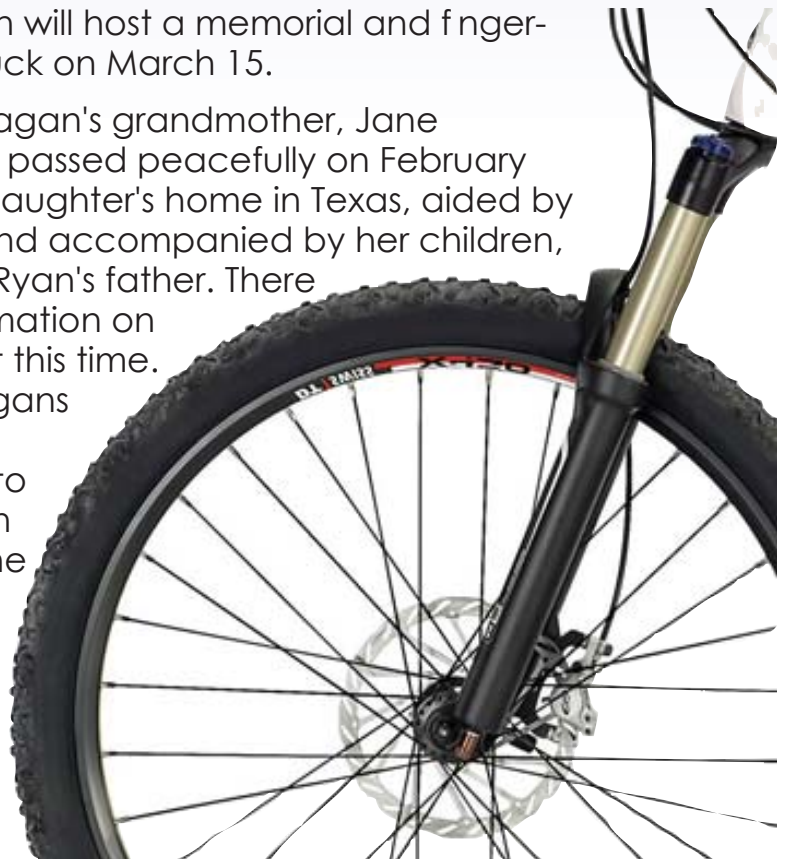
Wheel of Life

Walter "Bud" Geister Jr., 96, passed away on February 5, 2014, at Sherman Hospital in Elgin. He was a week shy of his 97th birthday. Bud was a lifetime member of the church; his mom was the Director of Religious Education. Here at UUCE, he was known as an Emerson scholar, and the longest standing member of the church.

Bud was active. He played tennis when the church used to have an annual tennis breakfast. He also rode his bike to church well into his seventies.

The church will host a memorial and finger-food potluck on March 15.

Ryan Flanagan's grandmother, Jane Flanagan, passed peacefully on February 11 in her daughter's home in Texas, aided by hospice and accompanied by her children, including Ryan's father. There is no information on services at this time. The Flanagans express gratitude to the church for all of the support during this turning point in their lives.



Pagans Celebrate Ostara on March 22

On March 22, beginning at 5:00, the group Pagan Unity will celebrate the Spring Equinox, followed by a Potluck Feast.

The first order of business is to clear the space and create the altar. The ritual will begin at 5:30, and the Potluck will cap off the evening.

Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and something appropriate to place on the altar. Fresh flowers, Ostara eggs, and other reminders of spring are good ideas.

To RSVP, join the [Pagan Unity Meetup](#), or contact [Sandy Russel](#).

HISTORY OF OSTARA

Spring has always been a time of rejoicing, a time of renewal and of resurrection. For centuries, the Spring Equinox was sacred to Eostre or Ostre, the ancient Goddess of Spring. From her name, we get the root word for estrogen and estrus (cores of fertility), and Easter (the Christian celebration of resurrection). Her festival, Ostara, was often celebrated with a ritual gift of colored eggs, the Egg being the symbol of Spring. The golden orb of its yolk represents the Sun God, its white shell the White Goddess, and the whole

is a symbol of rebirth. It is also believed that humans got the idea of weaving baskets from watching

birds weave nests. This may be why colored Easter eggs are associated with Easter baskets.



Labyrinth To Awaken Soon

After the worship service on March 9, all are invited to meet with the Labyrinth Committee in room 302. The discussion will focus on planning the coming year.

The Spring Equinox this month is a reminder of moving into the "light" half of the year, when the days are longer than the nights for six whole months. It may seem far away, but Nature's annual miracle will arrive sooner than one might think. The snowmelt prompts the Committee to discuss plans for dealing with another of Nature's miracles: weeds! The goal this year is to be proactive!

Last year, the Committee made some attempts at having an evening group labyrinth walk every month. Sometimes Nature cooperated and sometimes She didn't. The Candlelight Labyrinth Walk in November was a deeply felt spiritual experience for many. The sun was setting as the walk began; 45 minutes later, it concluded in complete darkness with walkers' candles glowing.

Do you have an idea for a sunset or evening walk? Please join the discussion! Everyone is welcome to help plan meaningful and appropriate events. Contact [Sandy Russel](#).

How UUCE Became a Green Sanctuary



Around the turn of this century, a Simple Living

Group formed

at UUCE. It consisted of members interested in consuming less and lightening their footprint on the Earth. It was soon renamed the Intentional Living Group. When they learned that the Unitarian Universalist Association had developed a Green Sanctuary Program to help UU churches follow the Seventh Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part," they embraced the opportunity. After a busy year-long candidacy, the congregation voted unanimously in May 2003 to seek accreditation as a Green Sanctuary. UUCE was the first congregation to be accredited in Illinois. Over the next ten years, the UUCE Green Sanctuary Committee engaged in a variety of activities:

- Raising awareness about climate change and promoting action
- Organizing Adopt-A-Highway litter clean ups on Highland Avenue

- Contributing to wind energy development
- Sponsoring letter writing campaigns for legislative advocacy
- Advocating sustainable farming practices
- Educating via Green Corner articles and Green Tips info sheets
- Promoting the use of non-toxic cleaning products
- Engaging in an energy audit and conservation efforts
- Investigating renewable energy systems for the church building
- Selling fair trade, organic coffee, tea and chocolate
- Helping to manage native landscaping
- Hosting environmental conferences
- Encouraging carpooling and biking to church
- Presenting worship services on Earth stewardship
- Endorsing waste reduction by reusing, reducing, recycling, and composting

- Networking with churches, government and community organizations

The Green Sanctuary Team meets monthly and welcomes new members. If you are an action oriented individual who is interested in promoting environmental awareness, we need you. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 16, following the service.

—Your Green Sanctuary Team

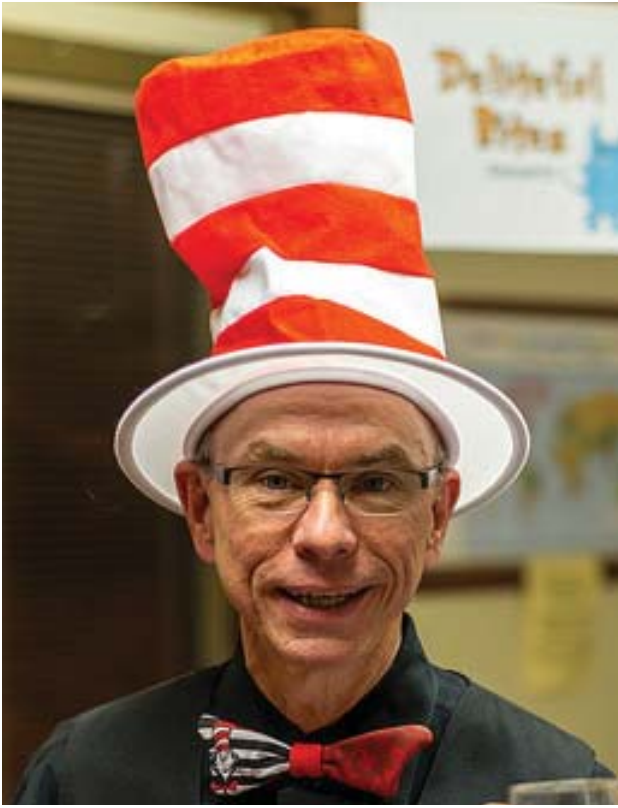
More of Our Neighbors Are Hungry

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry reported that they fed 1,854 people in January.

This is 500 more than at this time last year.

Because of this increase, they desperately need canned fruit, cereal, jelly and powdered milk. They can always use juice, peanut butter, tuna fish, hash and chili.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, March 2.



The Cat in the Hat Says:
I would thank you here or there!
I would thank you anywhere!
To all who made our auction great
From setting up to staying late!
To each and every one of you
Thank you, thank you,
thank you, thank you!

Everyone at UUCE
also sends thanks to Mike Moutrie!
For without his strong commitment
We'd be mired in disappointment.
In his hat just like a tanager*
Mike is an awesome auction manager!

Click below to enjoy a scrapbook of pictures from the 2014 Service Auction.
Photographs courtesy of Tim Davis.

*a small American songbird of the bunting family,
the male of which typically has brightly colored plumage.



Kudos

The church has much for which to be grateful. Sincere thanks are extended to ...

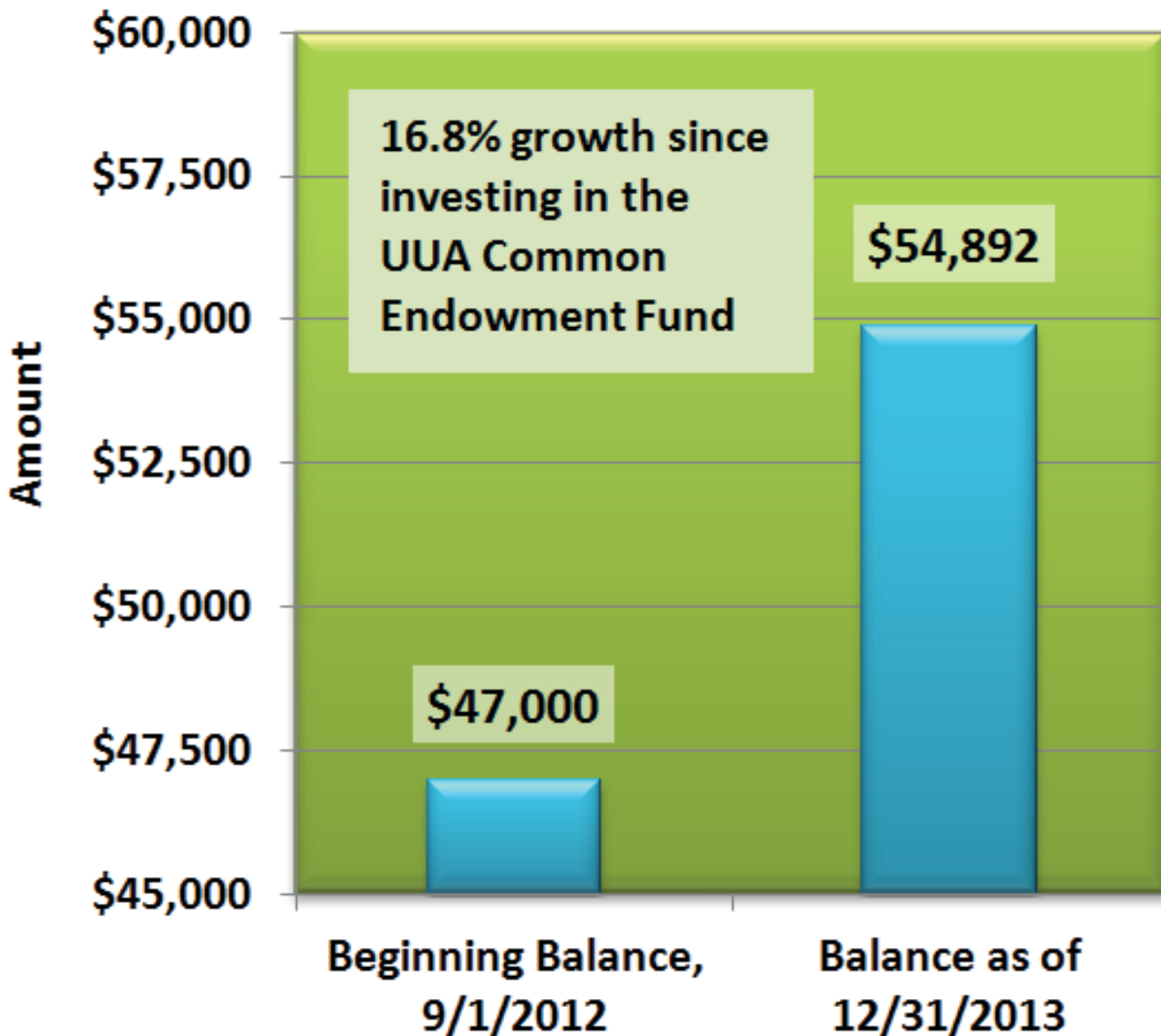
- Anne Clough, Tim Davis, Jason Engel, Sharon Fincher, Vickie Kilgore,

Ann Kremer, and Brandi Talaga. A huge thank you for mentoring high school youth this year!

- All who donated to the Dr. Martin Luther King food drive.

- Everyone who attended the Coming of Age group's Pancake Breakfast. The youth raised \$271 towards their trip to Boston this summer!

UUCE Endowment Fund Quarterly Update



Questions about the Endowment Fund should be directed to [Mike Moutrie](#), Endowment Fund Guy.

UUCE Board of Trustees Minutes

December 18, 2013

Members present: Debbie Caruso, Bridget Lafin, Mary Knapp, Elizabeth Closson, Anne Clough, Stephen Day and Tim Davis

Others attending: Lise Adams Sherry (minister)

I. OPENING

- a. Centering – Anne
- b. Approval of Agenda
- c. One-minute check ins

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

- a. Minutes approved

III. REPORTS

- a. Financial Report/ Earmarked Funds Report
 - i. Line item 6501 (Office Expenses) money expended for Power Church Software

- ii. Kathy U. keeping track of Youth Fund
- b. Minister's Report plus Q and A
 - i. Transition Committee is preparing a UUCE history blurb once a month during the Who We Are statement in the service.
 - ii. Discretionary Fund is to help people in the church or in the community who are experiencing financial difficulty
 - iii. The agreement with the Interim Minister and the UUCE states that the Moving Funds can be used in the next budget year (2014 – 2015). Bridget is going to contact Krista to make sure she is aware of this.
- c. Executive Team Report

- i. Reviewed and accepted.
- d. Transition Team Report
 - i. Transition Covenant Group to be started by Kathy Hislip.
 - ii. BoT needs to initiate the beginning of Vision/Mission work for the purpose of calling a settled minister. Transition Team would assist with this. Vision/Mission work needs to be in place by November 2014. Need to figure where UUCE wants to go so that prospective ministers have that information.
 - iii. Motion made by Debbie Caruso to form a Mission/Vision subcommittee. Seconded by Anne Clough. Motion

continued on page 15

Pledge Income at 95.429421549078962355491616129% of Goal

Budgeted YTD: \$96,793.00



Actual Received YTD: \$92,369.32



UUCE Board of Trustees Minutes, continued

passed. Stephen and Elizabeth will represent BoT.

iv. Looking at ways to enhance Transition Team communication

e. Personnel Task Force Report

i. Job description complete. Contract also developed. Both tasks worked on with the intention of eventually hiring someone outside the church. Carl Deitrick, Lise and Elizabeth worked on this. Carl started on December 1, and will conclude on June 1, 2014.

ii. Interim Minister evaluation needs to be completed by February 15, 2014 by someone from BoT. Work needs to be done in January.

iii. Cheren Waller is working on the other employee job descriptions.

f. Policy Governance Task Force Report

i. Tim shared that the committee met yesterday and have created a final rough draft for BoT to review in January.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Canvass Planning

i. Our Common Commitment is the theme

of this year's Stewardship Campaign.

ii. Meeting for Committed Members to be scheduled in January to provide input for the campaign.

b. Safety Issues – No Carry Signs, unauthorized visitors

i. Discussed safety on Sunday mornings.

ii. Discussed use of donated surveillance equipment.

1. Executive Team will work on this.

c. Personnel update - Acting Bookkeeper job description, hiring

i. Reviewed.

d. Appoint a "Small Groups" coordinator to replace Alice Macy

i. Discussed with Policy Governance Committee not having Small Groups part of Executive Team. This person will report to Program Council. Need to look at policies to determine how Small Groups chair is appointed. Elizabeth will make an announcement this coming Sunday.

e. Appoint Leadership Committee members

i. Looking to appoint two additional members

1. Anne will approach nominees

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss offer from surrounding UU churches to have common themes in services/RE

i. Not at this time

b. Who We Are list of dates

i. Trustees need to state they will be available after the service.

c. Transition statements for board members

i. Discussed BoT process with transition.

d. Discretionary Funds of Minister

i. Discretionary Fund is to help people in the church or in the community who are experiencing financial difficulty. Collected at Christmas Eve service.

e. Transition/Exit Interview

i. BoT needs to meet with Dori Thexton for the region assessment.

ii. Offering Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 6:30, or Saturday, January 18, at 9:30 at the church.

Faithfully submitted,
—**Tim Davis**, Secretary

Ways to Get in Touch

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What's Going On?

The church is in the process of transitioning toward a settled minister. Reverend Emeritus Dan Brosier retired in 2012; Reverend Lise Sherry is currently serving as Interim Minister; and the ultimate goal, slated for autumn of 2015, is to have a new settled minister.

What exactly is happening? Who is guiding the transition? What decisions are being made?

Here are some ways to communicate:

- Board of Trustees (BoT) meetings are open to the congregation. The next meeting is March 19.
- The Transition Team (TT) is working out exactly how UUCE is going to get to Point B. Updates are published in this newsletter, and disseminated via email, orders of service, and Sunday morning announcements. Each week after church, a Team member is in Fellowship Hall—look for the table besieged with paper and markers. Can't be there? Please email [Ann](#), [Elizabeth](#), [Kathy](#), [Michelle](#), or [Mike](#). They want to hear from you!



The Unitarian Universalist
Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

